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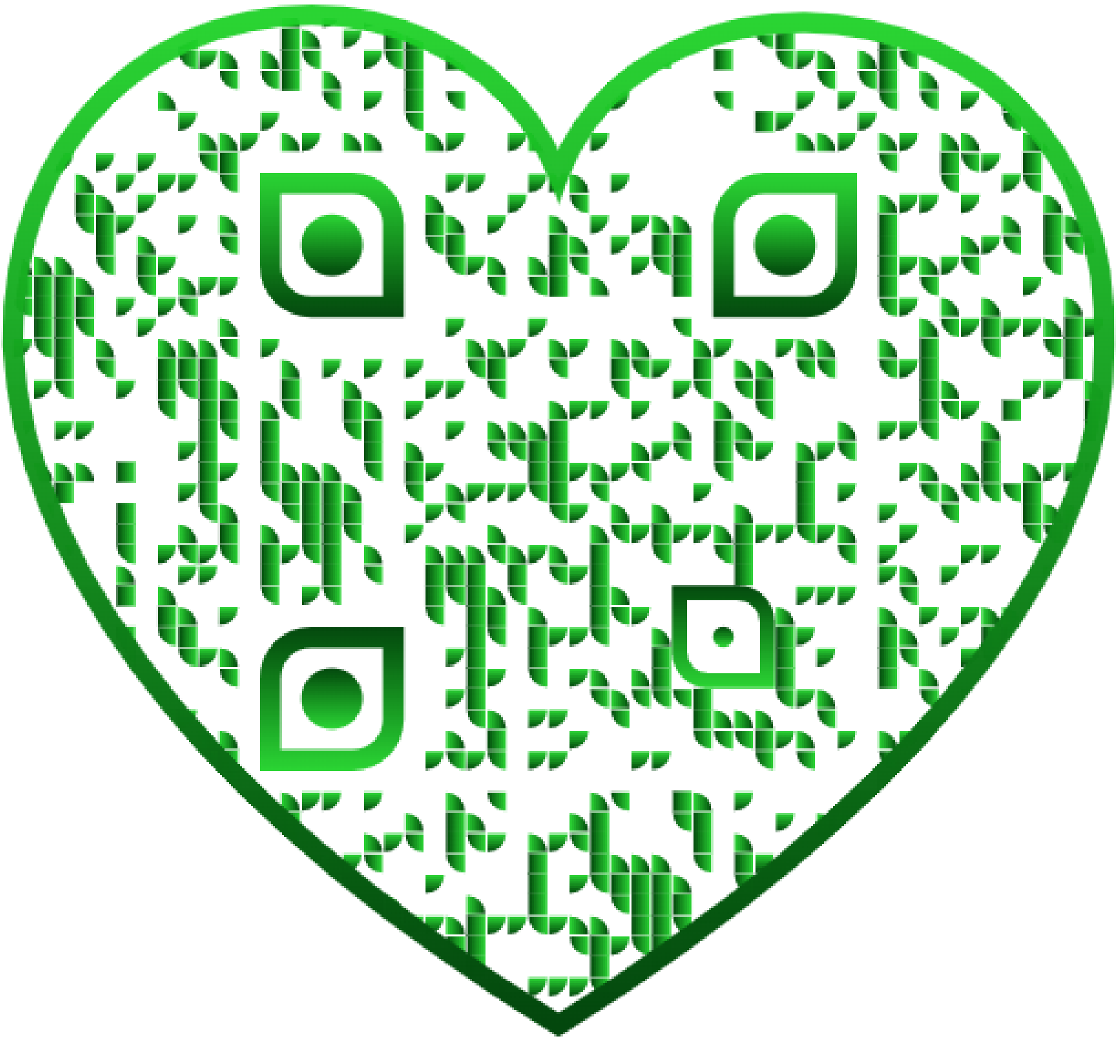

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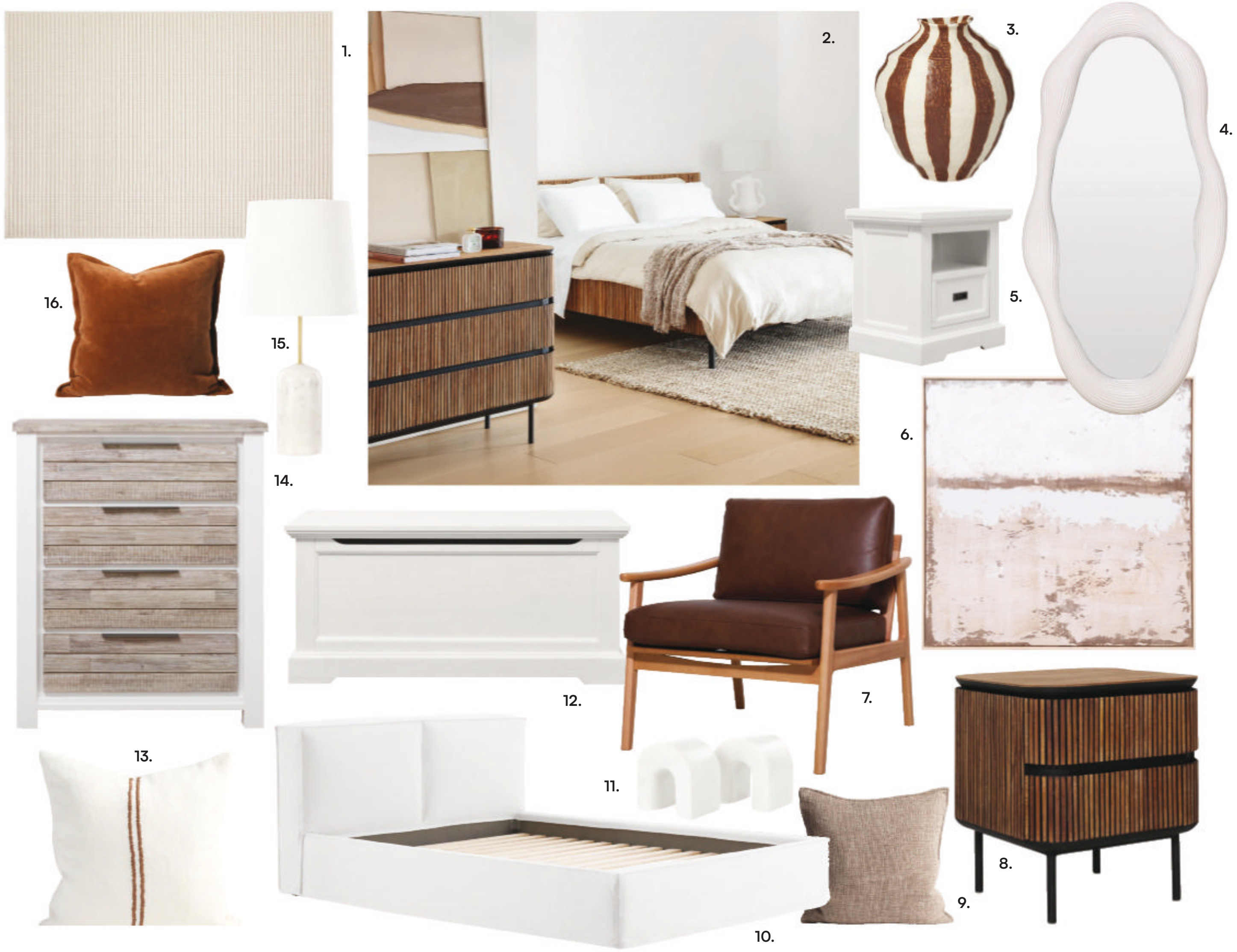

When it comes to styling your bedroom, each style offers its own unique charm. Opting for a fresh light white palette in your bedroom creates a serene environment. This embraces a clean and minimalist aesthetic that radiates tranquility. Light-colored furniture, such as whitewashed wood or light birch, can further enhance the brightness of the room.

In contrast, a moody textural reclaimed timber aesthetic offers a cozy, rustic charm that invites warmth and intimacy into your bedroom. Focus on warm, deep hues such as rich browns, charcoal greys, and muted greens. These colors can evoke a sense of grounding and comfort, perfect for creating a sanctuary-like space.

1. Sandridge Rug 2. Monaco Bed Frame & Tall Boy 3. Rayas Vase 4. Waverly Mirror 5. Hamptons Bedside Table 6. Dreamy Horizon Canvas
7. Akira Occasional Chair 8. Monaco Bedside Table 9. Kenji Cushion 10. Ella Loose Cover Bed Frame 11. Boyd Bookends
12. Hamptons Blanket Box 13. Orion Cushion 14. Halifax Tall Boy 15. Missouri Table Lamp 16. Evelyn Cushion.

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Pictured is the 2024 Room of the Year, designed by Madeleine Blanchfield Architects. Styling by Jack Milenkovic. Photograph by Pablo Veiga.

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The White Issue

JUNE

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Styling by Jack Milenkovic. Photograph by Dave Wheeler.

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Styling by Jack Milenkovic. Photograph by Dave Wheeler.

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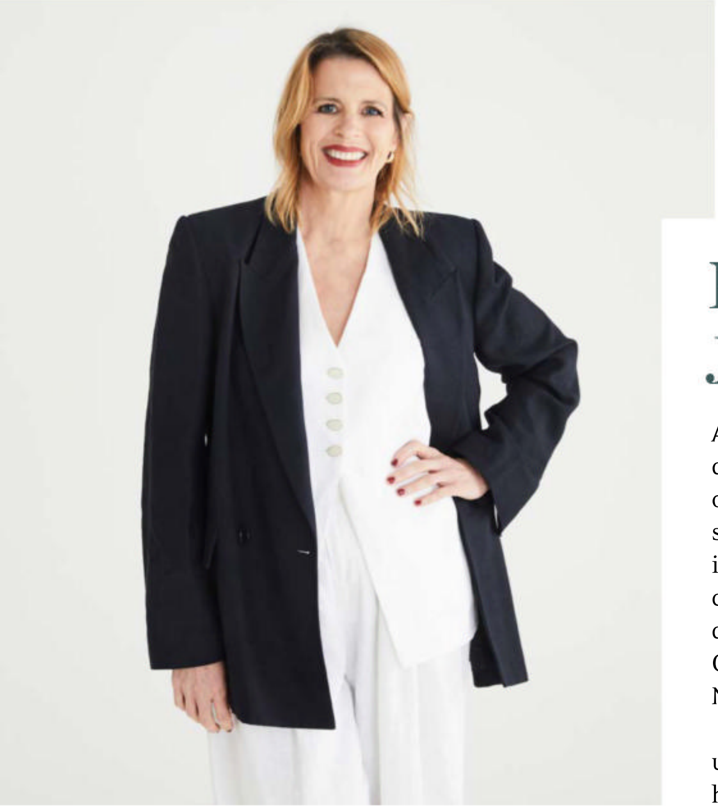


Hello and *welcome* to the June issue of *House & Garden.*

Australians love their homes and have very definite ideas about interior decorating. As a nation, we are pretty sophisticated design consumers; over the years I have been working in Australian interior magazines, I have seen a huge increase in the confidence of Australians using colour in their interior schemes. And while I love seeing well-executed and beautifully curated colour work, my heart belongs to white. I love a clean base to display my art collection on and assemble design pieces and soft furnishings. Give me pale polished floorboards or white painted ones, rugs and a Dulux Natural White wall any day, and I am happy to style up an inviting retreat.

Each of the white houses in this issue is so different, and there is undoubtedly nothing bland about them. The creamy whites in our cover house by Three Birds Renovations are beautiful, warm and very liveable – go to page 130 to see what the talented team achieved with the contemporary makeover of this family home, a look they are calling "Cali Cool". Meanwhile, our other white houses span genres from grand to petite to country.

For our At Home With story, we visit Lisa Keighery, wife of the late Australian fashion trailblazer, Marc Keighery. Lisa has worked on several houses with her friend and interior designer, Marco Meneguzzi. We take a look around her Palm Beach home, where it's evident that Lisa and Marco share a love of layering and collecting treasures with patina, all assembled against a classic white backdrop. Lisa has an incredible art collection, too. I love seeing how the pair worked together to position everything beautifully and allow the furniture and the residents to talk to the incredible view!

One of the keys to decorating with white is using different textures and fabrics. For unique ideas and choices, see stylist Sophie Wilson's Stylescape and decorating pages, from page 42 – a tasteful furry chair is on my wishlist! You would think choosing cushions and arranging them would be relatively simple, but there is a lot more to cushion plumping than you would think! Do you remember when the hard karate chop was in vogue when styling your cushions? Well, that is all a little too strict and noticeable, so try a plump with both hands on all sides of the cushion before placing – it's far more subtle than the karate chopping! Head to our Little Black Book on page 61 for loads of cushion advice and where to buy.

I am not the biggest fan of winter, even though we are so lucky to have mild winters in Australia, but delicious food and a chance to cook heartier dishes definitely up the appeal of the cooler months. See Amanda Cordony's selection of fast and hearty winter warmers on page 69.

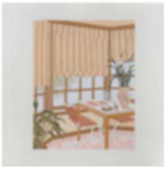
We know you will find lots to keep you busy on the home front this issue!

Tanya Buchanan

TANYA BUCHANAN, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

WISH LIST

1 Roseblood d'Estoublon 1489 2023 **rosé**, $89.99, Kent Street Cellars.



2 *Early Morning Drawings with Coffee and Toast (study)* **artwork** by Eliza Gosse, Edwina Corlette Gallery.

3 '1978' high back **sofa chair** in Yowie Natural, from $1914, King Living.

4 Carry-on **luggage** in Sandstone in Heritage Stripe, $480, Antler.

Tanya's photograph by Kristina Šoljo. Hair and make-up by Sam Powell.
Tanya wears an Oroton blazer and Dissh vest and pants.

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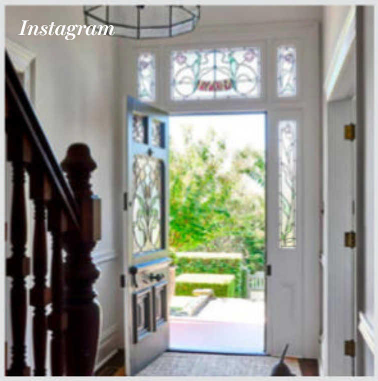

H&G social

Our posts that made your month.

A Sydney Federation home restored by designer Kelly Pearce won hearts on Instagram. Comedian Tim Ross's Northern Rivers home was a Pinterest hit. Meshki co-founder Natalie Khoei's Sydney mansion purchase was popular on Facebook.

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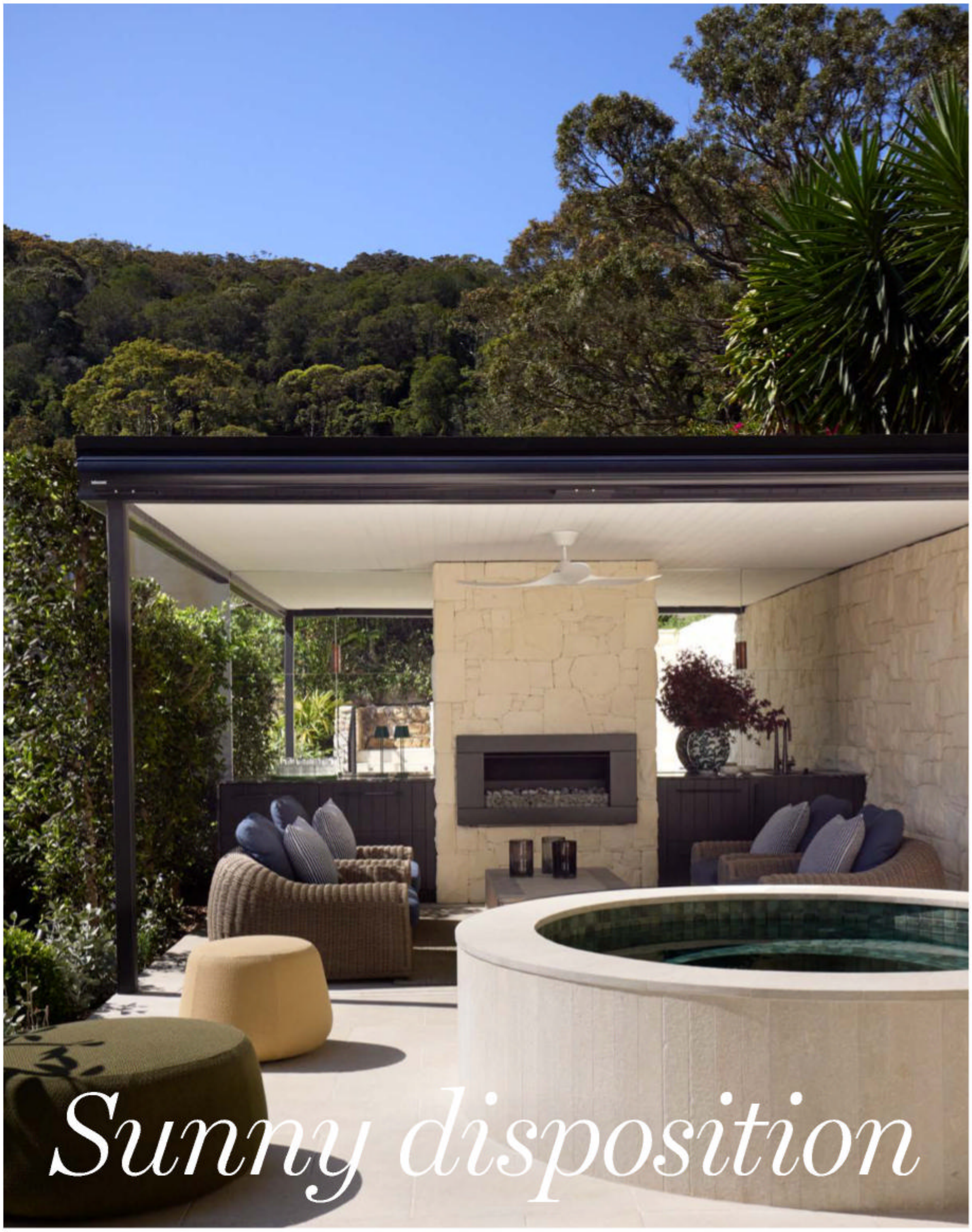


Sunny disposition

Reimagined by Marco Meneguzzi, the tranquil home of Lisa Keighery in Sydney's Palm Beach is more luxury lodge than traditional beach house.

STORY *Kirstie Clements* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Prue Ruscoe*

ALFRESCO "You can just spend all day out here," says designer Marco Meneguzzi of the area at the back of Lisa Keighery's home, where a custom stone spa and fireplace by Wyer & Co sit front and centre. Ottomans, Cosh Living. Outdoor chairs, Dedon. Coffee table, Harbour Outdoor. Lanterns, Parterre. Flooring, STS Stone.

"I thought you were lost!" Lisa Keighery calls out cheerfully as I pull into the driveway of her Palm Beach home on a sunny weekday. Dressed in jeans and Chanel flats, Lisa is walking me through her latest renovation, a spacious three-bedroom cottage that has been elegantly transformed into a luxurious private sanctuary, aided by her long-time collaborator and friend, interior designer Marco Meneguzzi. The pair have worked together on numerous properties over the past 20 years, and the synergy is obvious, both of them excitedly finishing each other's sentences.

Lisa has collaborated with Marco since the first Bellevue Hill family home she shared with her late husband Mark, the legendary fashion entrepreneur and founder of Marcs. The home was designed by Burley Katon Halliday, and at the time she felt it needed softening. "I wanted it to feel more warm and cosy," she recalls. "More Italian, like me!"

After admiring Marco's interior styling work in a friend's home, she invited him over. "There was nothing in the original house – no scatter cushions, no lamps, no curtains. Everything was built in, all glass and marble," says Marco. "It was 2005," Lisa adds. "Marco said, 'let me show you some fabrics', and that was the beginning of it all. We've worked on seven properties since then, some of them more than once!"

This latest project is the result of a downsize from a previous Palm Beach property, now that Lisa's two sons, Jack, 28, and Harry, 24, have left home. The new property has retained its original square meterage. Built by the BAU Group it steps cleverly into a hillside overlooking the blue of Pittwater and is surrounded by bushland. "We wanted it to have a New Zealand lodge feeling, so we painted it Dulux Black," says Marco. "It nestles into the cliff, then the contrast is against the pale stone. It's not a grand, fancy house; we wanted it to disappear into the landscape."

The interiors reference the idea of a lodge rather than a beach house, with layered timbers, linen curtains, textured raffia coverings, rattan furniture, plain timber bathrooms and a vaulted tongue-and-groove ceiling. "It's in the middle of a mountain, covered in bush," he says. " You look at the water but you're not on the water. You are basically in a tree house; all you see is green."

Colour and texture is displayed in oversized sofas and chairs in sunny yellow, and bedheads covered in ikat prints, as well as an ever-evolving art collection, including works by John Olsen, Guy Warren, Brett Whiteley, Rosalie Gascoigne, Tim Summerton, Ildiko Kovacs, Michael McHugh and Camie Lyons.

"Everything slowly evolves, very naturally," says Lisa of the decor. "Nothing is forced. "I sometimes doubt myself, then I will take a photo and send it to Marco, and he will say 'no, that's great'. When you're decorating you have to have your own taste; you've got to know yourself."

One of the most inviting features of the light-filled property is its airy indoor-outdoor feel, with manicured lawn terraces by Wyer & Co, a spacious balcony overlooking Pittwater at the front and a spectacular covered outdoor area at the back. ▶

OUTDOOR ENTERTAINING Cladding painted Dulux Black. Outdoor chairs, Naturally Cane. Tables, Anibou. Striped cushions, Harbour Outdoor. Vases, Parterre. **SPA** *Below, right* Lisa Keighery and Marco Meneguzzi. Ottoman, Cosh Living. Chair, Dedon. **EXTERIOR** "We wanted it to have a New Zealand lodge feeling," says Marco. "It's not a grand, fancy house; we wanted it to disappear into the landscape." This is achieved by the classic-contemporary landscaping by Wyer & Co and simple choice of Dulux Black paint for the exterior cladding.

LIVING Walls painted Dulux Snowy Mountains. Sofa and ottoman, Molmic. Side table, Ondene. Table lamp, Maclay on Manning. Rattan chair, Palecek. Cabinet, Orient House. Rug, Cadrys. Flooring, Tongue & Groove. *Opposite* Sofa and ottoman, Maker & Son. Table, The Vault Sydney. Artworks by Brett Whiteley and Camie Lyons. **KITCHEN** Joinery and lamp, Marco Meneguzzi Design. Chair, Palecek. Vase, Parterre. Board, vintage.

CARLOS MOTA
BARBARA L
wonderland
LANDSCAPE
belle

It features handsome stone walls, enormous comfy chairs, a fireplace, ceiling fan and plunge pool, with a sauna one level above, highlighting the designer lodge feel. "The space is equipped with everything you need. You can just spend all day out here," says Marco.

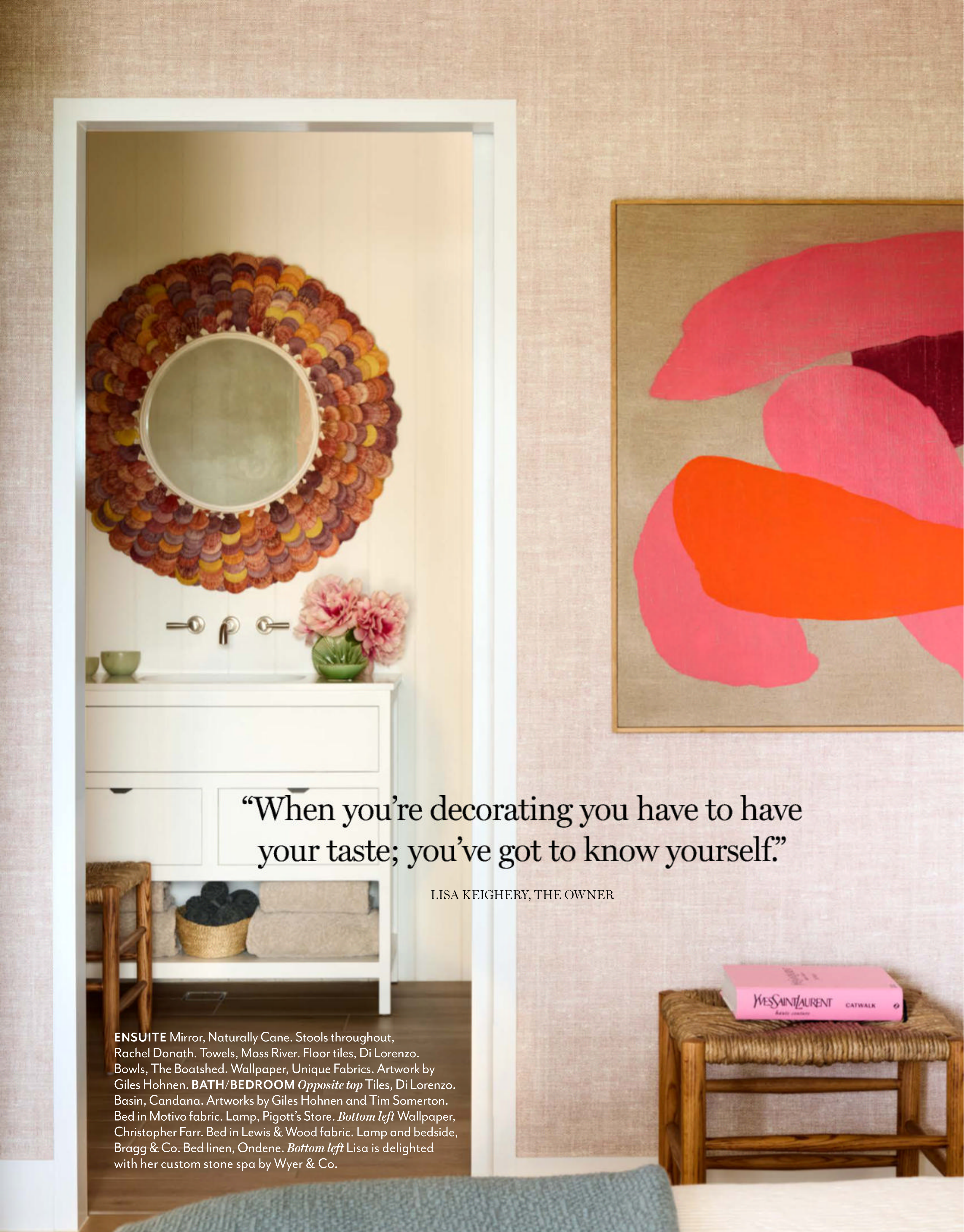
"It's a sanctuary for me, like a health retreat," says Lisa, who values the intimacy and privacy of the property, as well as the healing nature of the Palm Beach locale. While the pair plot their next design project, "maybe a farmhouse", Lisa is sure that it will always be as a duo. "I would never do a house with anybody but Marco. But I'm not handing the house over, I'm saying, 'you come in and complement my tastes'. It's my home, you feel my love when you come in, but he has enhanced and interpreted that love."

As the pair discuss moving some artworks, Marco looks around. "Lisa hasn't moved anything," he says. "Normally I will come in and she will have rearranged a table or some chairs. The fact that it has stayed like this without moving things around except for paintings means you like it."

"Well," responds Lisa. "I've got so much to look at outside." ▶

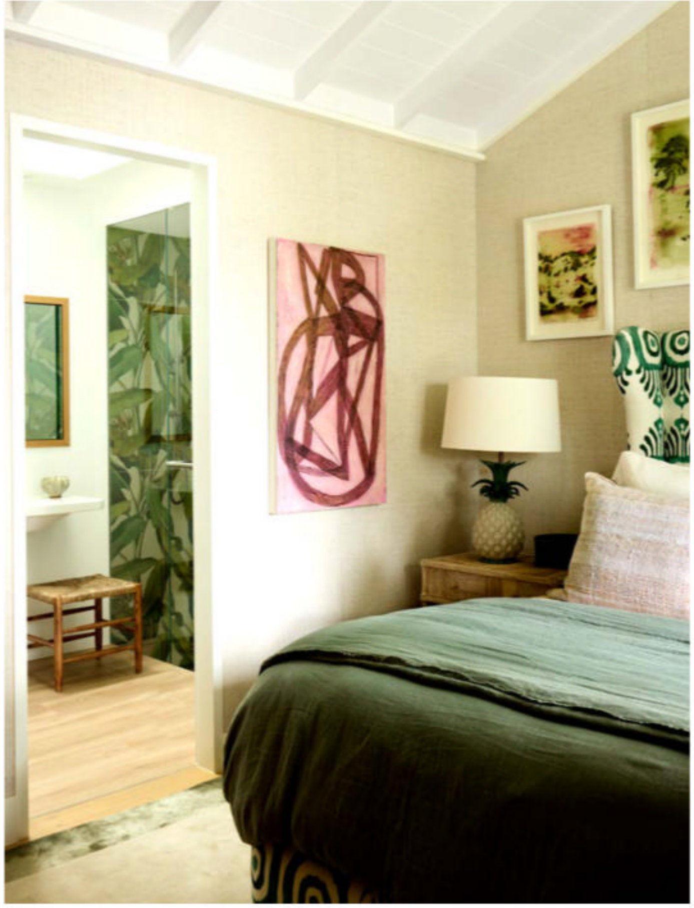
Marco Meneguzzi Design: *marcomeneguzzi.com.*
Bau Group: *baugroup.com.au.*
Wyer & Co: *wyerandco.com.au.*

THE VISTA The sparkling blue waters of Pittwater are interrupted only by the welcome greenery of the tree tops. While enjoying the views from the front balcony and lawns of her home, Lisa finds there is so much to lap up: "It's a sanctuary for me, like a health retreat."



> “When you’re decorating you have to have your taste; you’ve got to know yourself.”
>
> LISA KEIGHERY, THE OWNER

ENSUITE Mirror, Naturally Cane. Stools throughout, Rachel Donath. Towels, Moss River. Floor tiles, Di Lorenzo. Bowls, The Boatshed. Wallpaper, Unique Fabrics. Artwork by Giles Hohnen. **BATH/BEDROOM** *Opposite top* Tiles, Di Lorenzo. Basin, Candana. Artworks by Giles Hohnen and Tim Somerton. Bed in Motivo fabric. Lamp, Pigott’s Store. *Bottom left* Wallpaper, Christopher Farr. Bed in Lewis & Wood fabric. Lamp and bedside, Bragg & Co. Bed linen, Ondene. *Bottom left* Lisa is delighted with her custom stone spa by Wyer & Co.



LIFE & STYLE

Lisa Keighery shares a selection of her favourite things.

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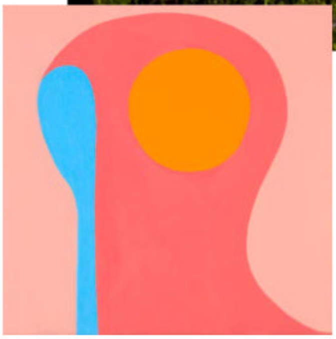

“I LIKE CLEAN-LOOKING, LINEAR FLOWERS. I DON’T LIKE MESS.”

5

6

MY FIRST HOME Mark and I bought our first family home in 2002 in Bellevue Hill [NSW]. It was a white brick ’60s-style house, (it had a dungeon lined with sheepskins; we’re not quite sure what that was used for!). It was renovated by Burley Katon Halliday, but we kept some of the original features like the arches and the pool.

I’M CURRENTLY READING... In the past it would have been 20 magazines but now it’s Pinterest. I’m obsessed with Pinterest when it comes to interior design. Looking at all the references helped me to decide what my taste is. Indecision makes things complicated, when you don’t know what you like.

MY FAVOURITE DESIGNERS Marco Meneguzzi. He seems quite conservative and then suddenly he will have an idea and it’s, “Wow, how did you even think of that?” I think you need an interior designer to finish your home, to benefit from what their eyes see.

MY FAVOURITE FRAGRANCE Eight & Bob Nuit de Megève (3), from Becker Minty. It was worn by President John F. Kennedy and has notes of pink pepper, cardamom and lemon. I love the bottles too; I buy this fragrance for all of my friends.

I LOVE TO COOK... Of course I do, I’m Italian! My favourite would be my nonna’s recipe of meatballs (polpette) – all that tomato, cheese and spinach.

I LOVE A VASE FULL OF... Colour. Dahlias (2) or tulips. I like clean-looking, linear flowers. I don’t like mess.

NEXT DESTINATION Italy (1), preferably to a health retreat.

MY FAVOURITE FILM I like films to be uplifting and I watch old films over and over again: *Breakfast at Tiffany’s* (5), *Gilda*, *The Way We Were*, *What’s up, Doc?*. I love Barbra Streisand.

FAVOURITE PIECE IN MY WARDROBE Currently, it’s a denim dress by Erdem, which is ankle length and has a print on it. I like the way that denim gives it a casual feel, but is also very dressed up.

MY DREAM CAR A classic Mercedes SL500 (6) maybe from the 1970s, maybe a convertible that been beautifully restored with a tan leather interior. I don’t want to feel like I’m sitting inside a computer when it comes to cars, I want it to have character.

MY FAVOURITE ARTISTS Anything that Tim Olsen sells (4). I think he’s a great curator. I will always find something in his gallery, he has amazing taste.

MY PERFECT WEEKEND A road trip with my two sons. Jack will put some music on and I’ll drive. That’s the rule – Mum drives!

WHAT’S ON MY WISHLIST? That I live long enough to be a grandmother. **H&G**

Photography by Getty Images (1 and 2). *Diving Bell* artwork by Stephen Ormandy (4), Olsen Gallery.

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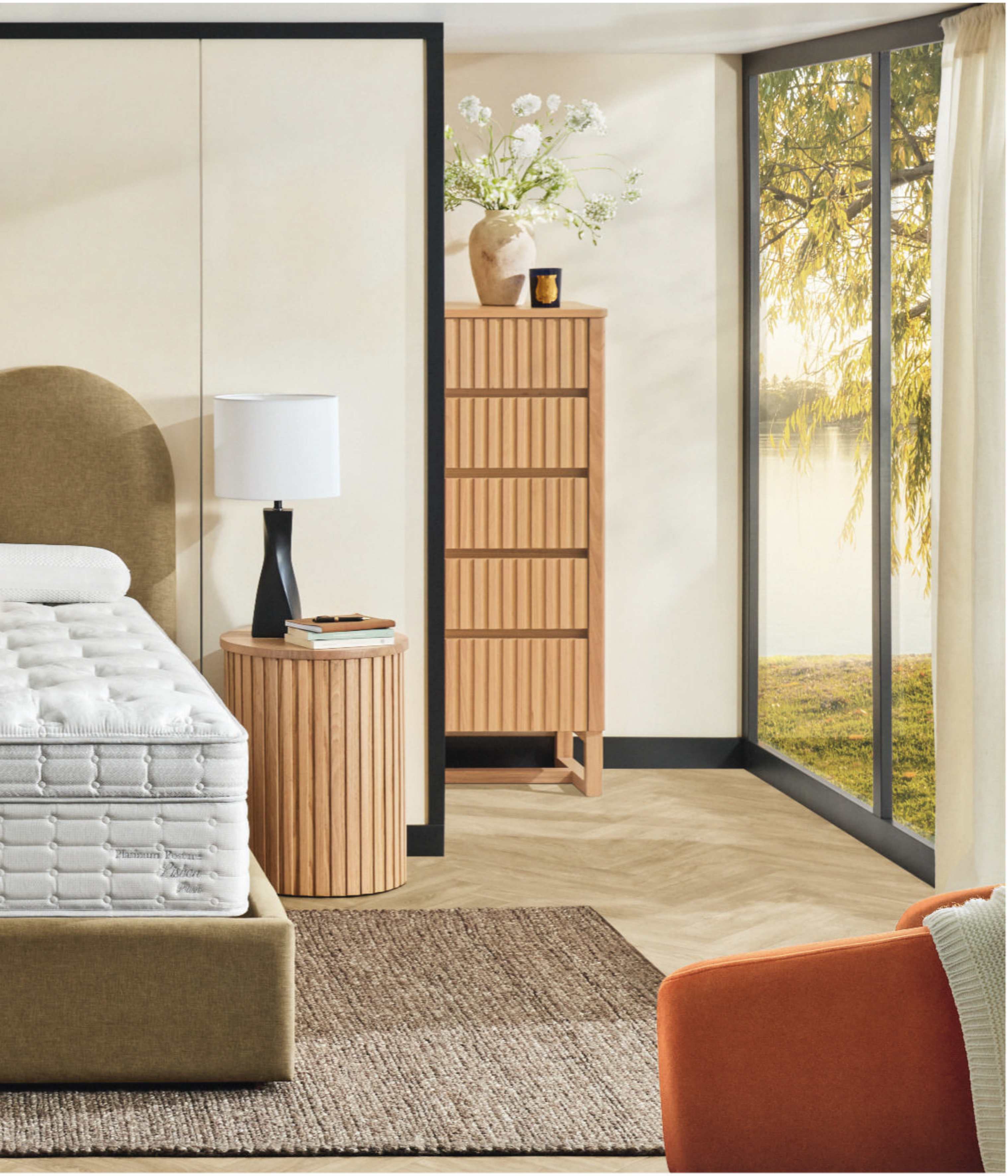

KING KOIL PLATINUM POSTURE 'LISBON PLUSH' QUEEN MATTRESS $4199; 'LAGUNA' QUEEN BED IN CHAMBRAY TUSSOCK $2299; A.H. BEARD MEMORY FOAM PILLOWS $109EA; 'OXFORD' 6-DRAWER TALLBOY $2799; 'OXFORD' ROUND BEDSIDE TABLE $999EA; 'MARLA' BLACK LAMPS $139EA; SIGNATURE HOME 'MONGOLIAN' CUSHION IN ROSE (40 X 40CM) $59; L'AVENUE 'SUNVALE' WHITE SQUARE CUSHION (45 X 45CM) $29EA; 'COBBLE' BEDROOM CHAIR IN 'KEESHA RUST' FABRIC $1299; SIGNATURE HOME 'PORTENO' WHITE THROW $39; 'SOLANO' BROWN EXTRA LARGE RUG (230 X 330CM) $1499.

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Stylescape

with SOPHIE WILSON

Stylist Sophie Wilson creates a timeless white bedroom scheme that strikes a balance between restful and delightful.

TOP FIVE *bedside lamps*

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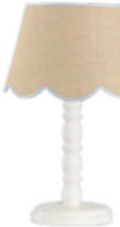

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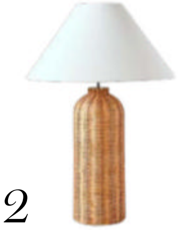

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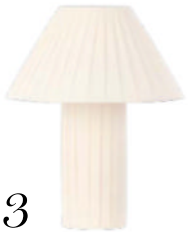

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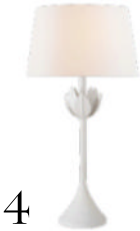

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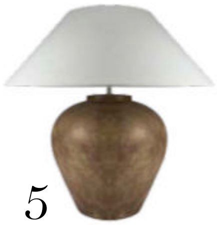


1 Scalloped **shade** in Jute/Duck Egg Blue, $80, with 'Garru' **lamp base**, $140, both Soffle. **2** Australian House & Garden 'Vernon' woven **table lamp**, $179.95, Myer. **3** 'Radovis' **table lamp**, $99.95, Freedom. **4** Julie Neill 'Alberto' **table lamp**, $1290, The Montauk Lighting Co. **5** 'Belvedere' concrete **table lamp**, $249.95, James Lane. **PORTRAIT** Flexform **armchair**, Fanuli. Ralph Lauren Home **lamp**, The Montauk Lighting Co. **Mirror**, Tigmi Trading. **Pot**, Pepperwhites. **Candle**, Glasshouse Fragrances. Comport, Love After Love. **Side table**, Castlery. **Flooring** in Classic Seagrass Squares, Natural Floorcovering Centres.

'Sinharaja' **wallpaper** in Tan used as border throughout, Milton & King. Words by Bethan Lacoba. Portrait photograph by Alana Landsberry. Hair and make-up by Michelle Cox. Bedroom photograph by Martina Gemmola.

WHITE BED LINEN sets a *clean and calming* tone. A *sweet ruffle* will ELEVATE THE LOOK. 'Vintage Ruffle' pillowcases, $74.95, LinenHouse.

SENSE OF SPACE

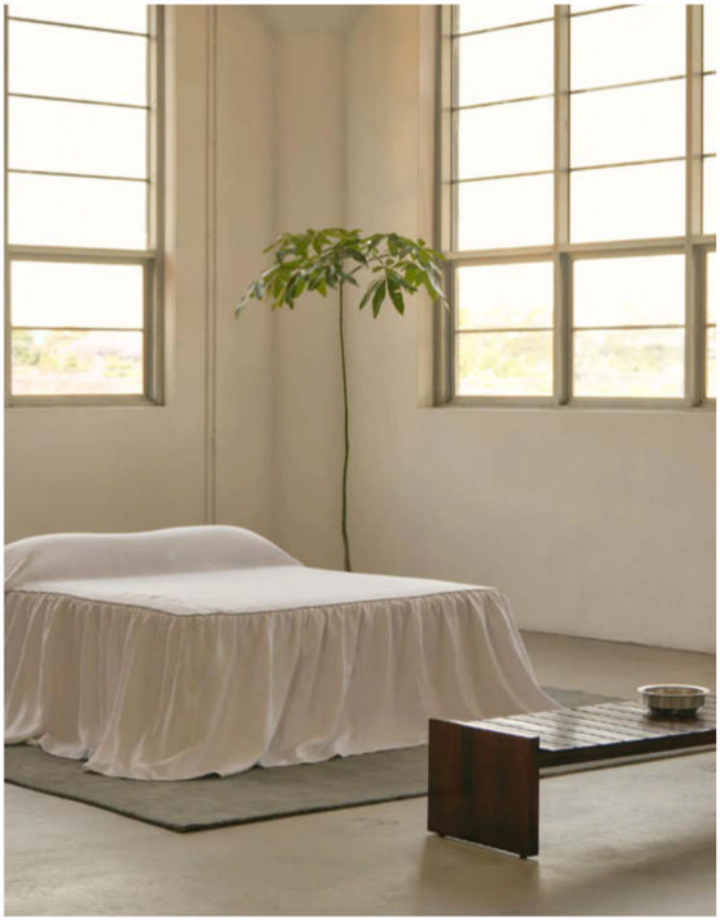
The leaning 'Ava' floor mirror is a worthy investment piece; $2695, Coco Republic.

LIGHT SOURCE

Add interest to a neutral palette with vintage Murano sconces, $1450/two, Cleo Collects.

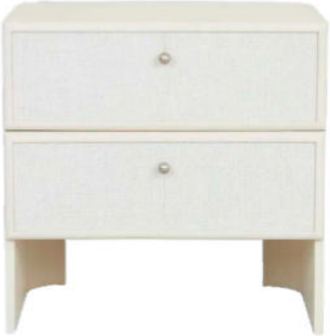
WARM TONES COCOON

The key to a soothing bedroom that isn't drab? Layering soft textures and curved shapes in various soft wheaten hues. 'Aspen' pure cotton quilt in Oatmeal, $297, L&M Home. ▶



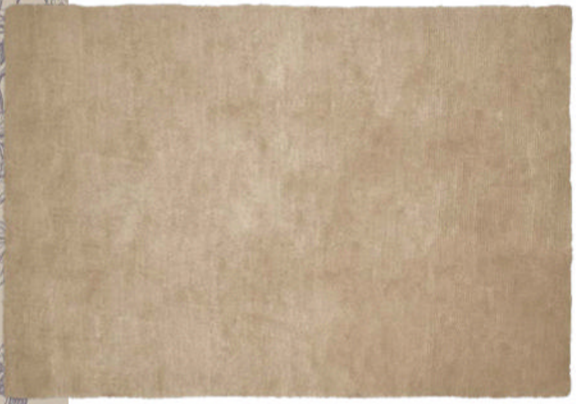
FRENCH FLAIR

A European-style bedcover with a pleated skirt in neutral linen creates a subtle sense of grandeur. 'Chateau' bed veil in Ivory, $1290, In The Sac.



CLASSIC CATCH

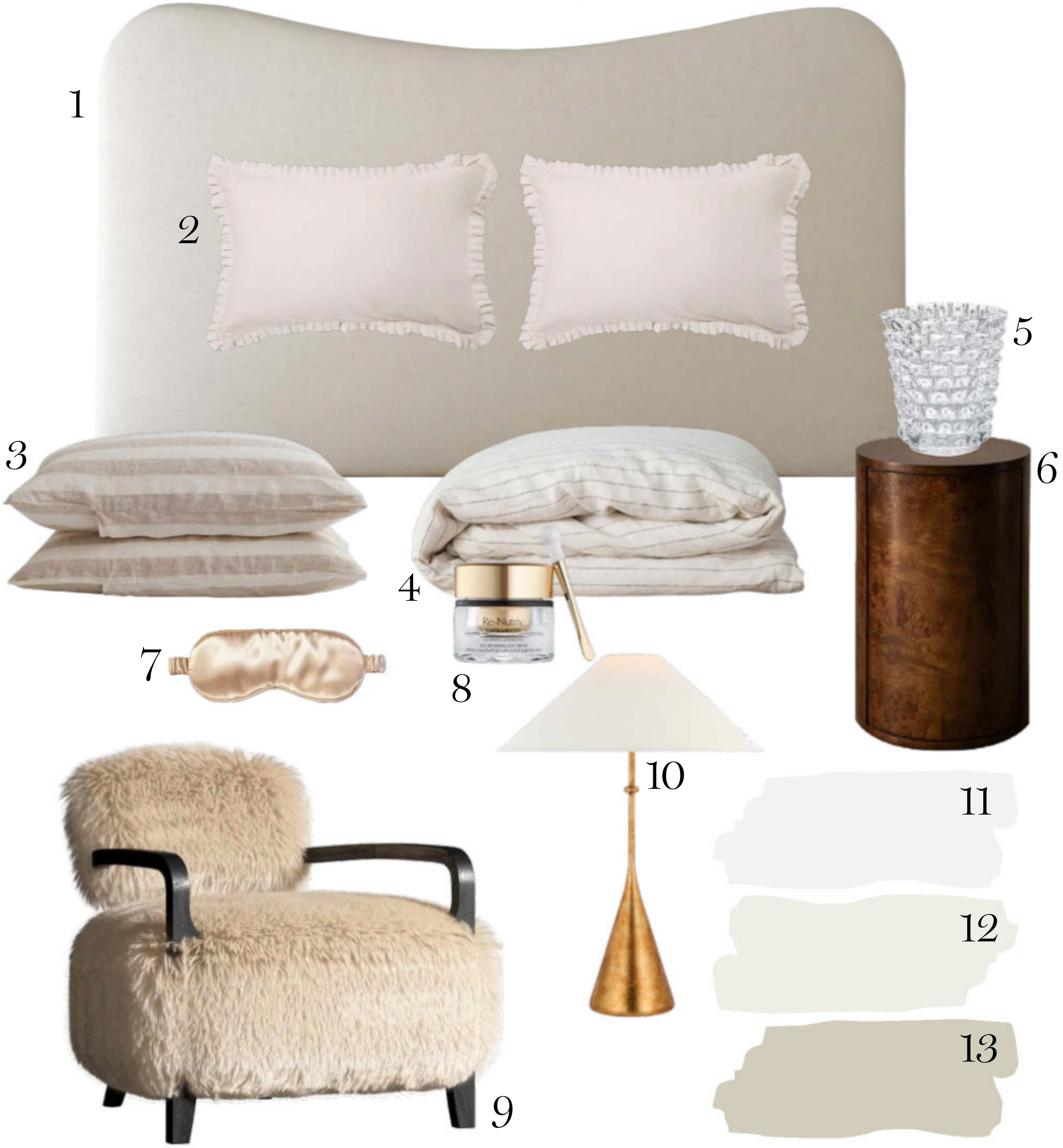
Continue the timeless, layered theme with the 'Elodie' bedside in Shell, $2485, GlobeWest.



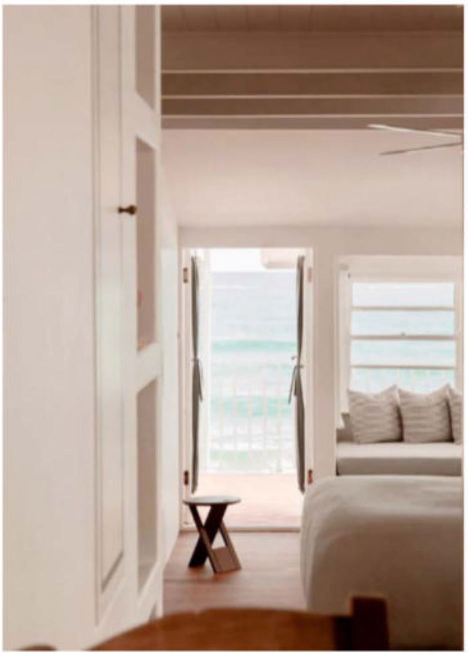
EARTHY BASE
Anchor the room with a rug in a deeper yet complementary tone. Go for plush-underfoot to start and end your day with luxury. 'Otago' washable wool Berber rug in Taupe, from $1200, Double.

SWEET DREAMS *are made of these.* Complete your beautiful bedroom set-up with elegant nightwear to match. 'Viola' oversized *silk pyjama set* in Lily White, $319, Lilysilk.

The Room



1 'Saatchi' **bedhead**, $1699, McMullin. **2** 'Avenue' pleated **pillowcases**, $130/two, L&M Home. **3** Flax linen **pillowcase set**, $84.90, I Love Linen. **4** Linen **duvet cover** in Pencil Stripe, $250, Cultiver. **5** 'Clear **vase** No. 1', $380, Holmon Home. **6** 'Vernier' **side table** in Tabac Burl, $1090, Rachel Donath. **7** 'Slip' **sleeping mask**, $65, Mecca. **8** Re-Nutriv Ultimate Diamond Age Reversal **Eye Creme**, $295, Estée Lauder. **9** Timothy Oulton 'Cabana' **armchair** in Yeti Beige, $6595, Coco Republic. **10** Visual Comfort 'Zealous' **lamp** by Kelly Wearstler, POA, Bloomingdales Lighting. **11** Dulux Lexicon Quarter. **12** Dulux Snowy Mountains Half. **13** Dulux White Duck. ▶



NOSTALGIC RETREAT

Riviera luxe meets relaxed Aussie style at Il Delfino, a coastal inn located in Yamba, NSW. With soothing tones and nostalgic Mid-century features, the interiors are just as much a drawcard as the ocean views.

Photography courtesy of Il Delfino.

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Colour:
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Rogerseller Eccentric Dual Rail Shower

Dimensions:
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Colour:
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Decorating

STYLISH FURNITURE AND HOMEWARES SELECTIONS

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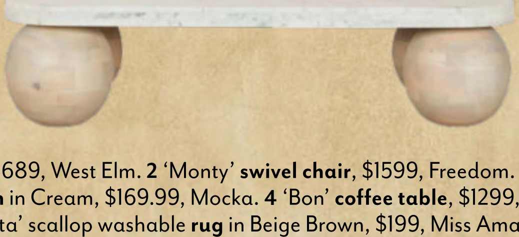
Living CLASSICS

Compose an all-ivory living room look with timeless pieces.

PRODUCED BY *Sophie Wilson*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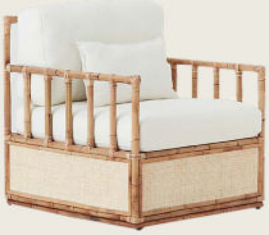
1 'Nico' **pendant**, $689, West Elm. **2** 'Monty' **swivel chair**, $1599, Freedom. **3** 'Kenzo' round sherpa **ottoman** in Cream, $169.99, Mocka. **4** 'Bon' **coffee table**, $1299, James Lane. **5** 'Mirta' scallop washable **rug** in Beige Brown, $199, Miss Amara.

5

TAKE A SEAT

ARMCHAIRS FOR ENTERTAINING AND FOR CURLING UP IN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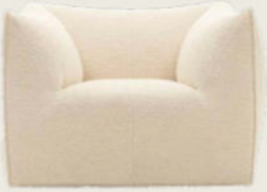
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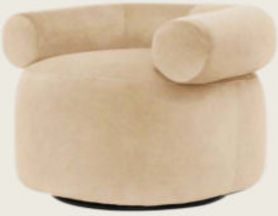
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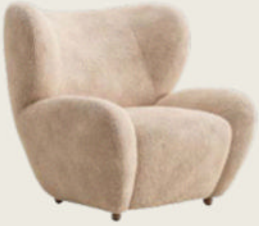
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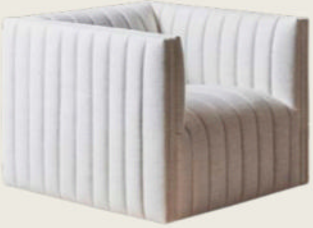
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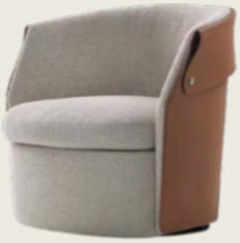
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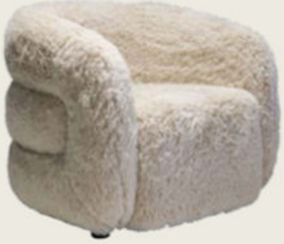
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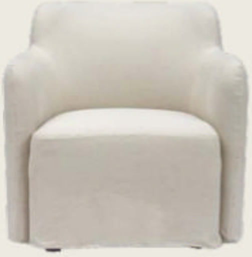
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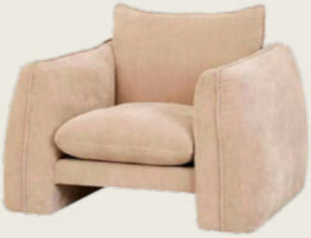
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THE PALETTE

Dulux Lexicon Quarter

Dulux Handmaid Linen Half

Dulux White Polar Quarter

1 ‘Corum’ occasional **armchair**, $1849, Freedom. **2** B&B Italia ‘Le Bambole’ **armchair**, $10,465, Space. **3** ‘Huggy’ swivel **armchair** in Malibu Dune, $1599, Ellison Studios. **4** ‘Hunter’ **chair**, $2200, Casa Blanco. **5** ‘Victor’ **swivel chair** in Crescent Natural Fabric, $2195, Coco Republic. **6** Flexform ‘Ozzy’ **armchair**, POA, Fanuli. **7** ‘Sylvia’ **armchair** in Sand Shag Fabric, $889, Vorsen. **8** ‘Tulla’ **armchair**, $1275, MCM House. **9** ‘Hugo Monte’ **sofa chair** in Parchment, $3640, GlobeWest.

COFFEE TABLE LOOKS

ANCHOR YOUR LIVING ZONE WITH A SOLID CHOICE

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THE PALETTE

Dulux Snowy Mountains Half

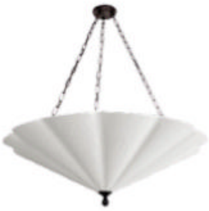
Dulux Light Rice Quarter

Dulux China White

1 Ode Design 'Reed' **outdoor coffee table** in Travertine Finish, $1499, RJ Living. **2** 'Fin' **bedside** in Tofu & Cosmos Marble, $899, Ellison Studios. **3** 'Akan' round **coffee table**, $2800, Casa Blanco. **4** 'Eve' drum **coffee table** in White, $249.99, Mocka. **5** 'Pompeu' **coffee table**, $899, Freedom. **6** 'Toto' **side table** in Ecru, $399, RJ Living. **7** 'Tor' concrete **coffee table** in Sand, $2160, Blend Concrete Design. **8** 'North Shore' white **coffee table**, Adairs. **9** The Home Collective 'Knox' mango wood **coffee table**, $1199.99, Temple & Webster. ▶

ILLUMINATING STYLE

AN ELEGANT PENDANT IS THE PERFECT FOCAL POINT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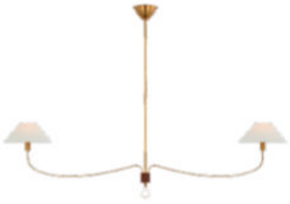
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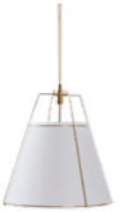
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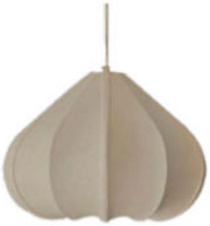
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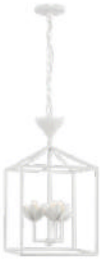
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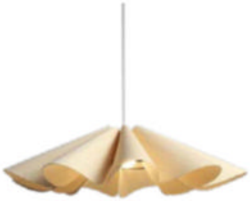
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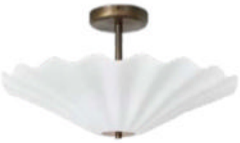
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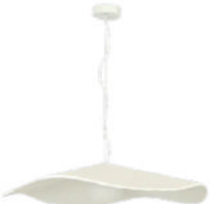
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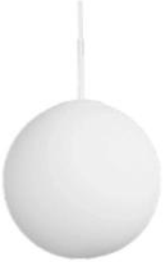
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THE PALETTE

Dulux
White Swan

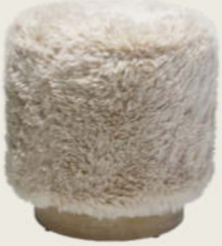
Dulux
Natural White

Dulux
Sandy Day

1 Large scalloped **plaster pendant**, $6500, Cleo Collects. **2** Visual Comfort 'Griffin Grande Linear' **chandelier**, POA, Bloomingdales Lighting. **3** 'Jessie' **pendant light**, $269, Ivory & Deene. **4** 'Thea' cotton **pendant light** in Beige, $569/large, LivingStyles. **5** Julie Neill 'Alberto' **lantern**, $2690/small, The Montauk Lighting Co. **6** 'Delfina' **pendant light** in White, $1369/small, Nook Collections. **7** Original BTC 'Christie' **ceiling light**, $2528, Dunlin. **8** MFL By Masson 'Ballare' **pendant** in Gypsum, $695, Beacon Lighting. **9** 'Orb Air' **pendant**, $650/large, RJ Living.

FOOT NOTES

ADD COMFORT AND STYLE WITH A CLASSIC OTTOMAN



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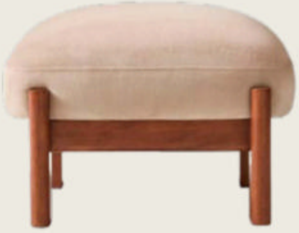

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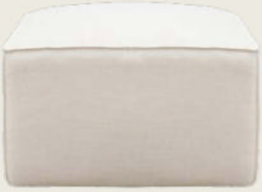

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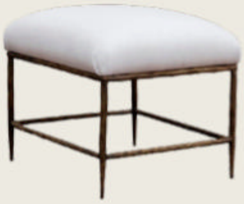

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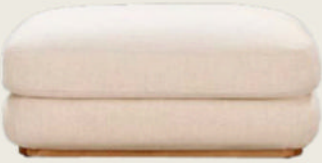

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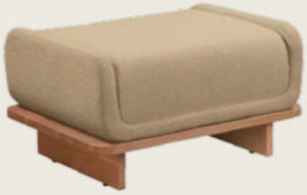

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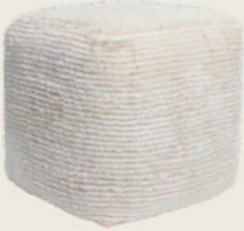

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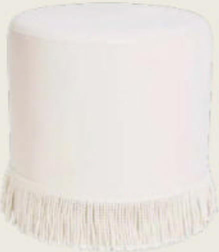

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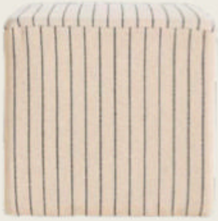

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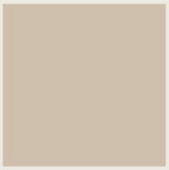
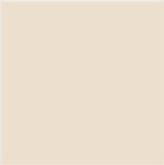
THE PALETTE



Dulux
Vintage Beige

Dulux
Vivid White



Dulux
Seed Pearl

1 ‘Kelly’ **ottoman**, $229, Vorsen. **2** ‘Nils’ chair **ottoman**, $499, West Elm. **3** ‘Elio’ junior **ottoman**, $595, MCM House. **4** ‘Ashton’ **ottoman** in Antique Brass, $899, Alfresco Emporium. **5** ‘Stack’ small **ottoman** in Hyams Sable, $799, Ellison Studios. **6** ‘Curve’ **ottoman** in Copenhagen Biscuit, $599, RJ Living. **7** ‘Pihanga’ **pouffe**, $189, Freedom. **8** ‘Nemi’ velvet fabric round **ottoman stool** in Ivory, $215, LivingStyles. **9** ‘Torino’ **square ottoman** in Alexandra Linen Stripe, $119, Early Settler. ▸

REFINED RUGS

A TEXTURED NEUTRAL WILL WARM AND GROUND A ROOM

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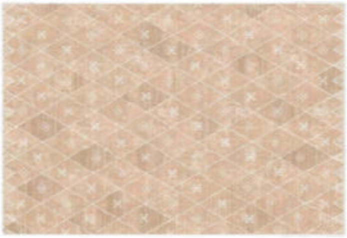
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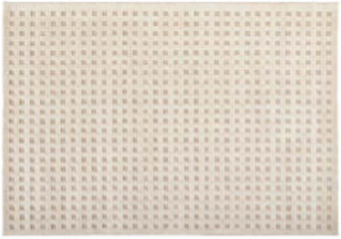
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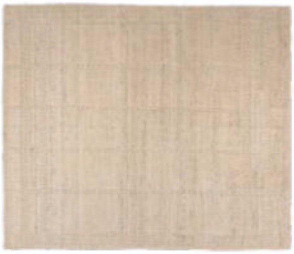
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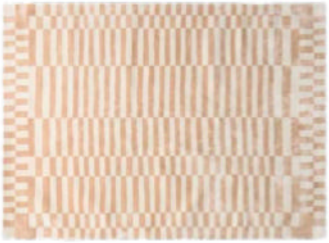
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THE PALETTE

Dulux
Ecru

Dulux
Stowe White

Dulux
Beige Antiquity

1 Colorscope 'Naturals Grid' **rug** (230x160cm), $1210, Cadrys. **2** 'Malawi' **rug** in Tapioca (240x170cm), $1800, Armadillo. **3** 'Kavi Diamond' **rug** Rose Gold (275x185cm), $599, Ruggable. **4** 'Villa Raine' **rug** (340x240cm), $949, Freedom. **5** 'Sahara' **rug** in Sand (300x240cm), $5500, Tigmi Trading. **6** 'Catania' viscose check **rug** in Beige & Cream (230x160cm), $599.99, Adairs. **7** 'Patio Kudo Natural' **rug** (230x160cm), $249, Choices Flooring. **8** Aragon **rug** in Grey/Beige (300x240cm), $6990, Designer Rugs. **9** 'Mackenzie' washable wool **rug** in Cream, $1090, Double. **H&G**

HARVEY NORMAN PRESENTS

NEXT-GEN CLEANING

Revolutionary robot technology is here to automate your cleaning needs. Harvey Norman brings you the best of what's new.

Tangle-free

The ROBOROCK SAROS 10's combination of Dual Anti-Tangle System and AdaptiLift Chassis work together to prevent hair tangles from pets and humans.

High-level design

Go deep with a cleaning system that intelligently adjusts to the different floor types in your home, with an all-in-one dock for hands-free maintenance.

ROBOROCK SAROS 10 AI ROBOTIC VACUUM & MOP, RR-S1052-03-BLK, $2999.

FlexiArm Technology

Mid-to-Long-Pile Carpet Cleaning

Harvey Norman®

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A PERFECTLY MAPPED CLEAN

Meet the DEEBOT X8, designed with real-time navigation, embedded LiDAR sensors and the power to make a 3D map of its environment.

3V Anti-Tangle Technology
YIKO-GPT large language model

Deep stain detection

More than a pre-programmed cleaner, the DEEBOT X8 PRO OMNI adapts to environmental changes in real time. Using stain detection and Re-Mop capabilities, the unit intelligently identifies areas that need deeper cleaning and quickly adjusts its strategy to target them for repeated mopping, effectively eliminating stubborn dirt and stains.

Narrow navigator

This unit is a true explorer, getting into all the nooks and crannies that are difficult to reach. Efficient path planning enables the DEEBOT to select the optimal route for each cleaning segment, reducing unnecessary turns and ensuring a smoother, more effective cleaning process. The combination of dual-structured light and the TruEdge 3D Edge Sensor ensures it stays close to obstacles while efficiently cleaning edges. It also instantly detects and adapts to sudden environmental changes, such as moving people or animals.

Extended edge cleaning

Powerful suction with extendable roller mop and side brush.

Self-maintenance

When the cleaning is done, the DEEBOT returns to its OMNI Station, where automated self-maintenance takes place. This station features a precise, temperature-controlled hot water mop washing system to balance cleaning effectiveness and energy efficiency. Once docked, it washes the mop, dries it with hot air to prevent odours, automatically empties the dustbin and maintains the optimal 200:1 cleaning solution ratio in the DEEBOT's water tank. And when all that's done, the unit stands ready for the next cleaning session.

ECOVACS DEEBOT X8 PRO OMNI ROBOTIC VACUUM & MOP, X8-PRO-OMNI-B, $2499.

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OK, Dreame. Start mopping.

Industry-First ProLeap™ System

The DREAME X50 ULTRA features an innovative retractable robotic leg system that provides the ability to navigate a two-tiered threshold of up to 6cm in height, or a single threshold of 4.2cm – the highest climb for a commercial robot vacuum. It's perfect for households with elevated thresholds, tricky ledges and height transitions between spaces.

Voice intelligence

Hands free, tell the X50 ULTRA what you would like it to do around the house, courtesy of the companion DREAMEHOME app that also provides you with customisable controls such as no-go and no-mop zones. Build a cleaning map of your home to help the robot learn and understand your spaces, including any special areas that require custom attention. In addition, you can use voice assistants Siri, Alexa or Google Assistant to order the unit to stop, start and schedule cleanings.

Full coverage

Cleaning made clever with an intelligent robot that responds to voice commands, learns your home and adapts to your needs.

Obstacle-crossing algorithm

Using the combined power of 3D structured light and an AI-powered camera, the X50 ULTRA can accurately identify up to 200 types of objects. This technology projects a detailed 3D map to detect and avoid smaller items while safely navigating closer to larger obstacles. The robot's LiDAR navigation sensor isn't locked in place on top of the unit – when it detects an obstacle like low furniture, the VersaLift sensor retracts into its body, to maintain the 89mm height that allows the X50 ULTRA to slide into those tight, inaccessible areas that are usually difficult to keep clean.

**DREAME X50 ULTRA
ROBOTIC VACUUM & MOP,
DRE-X50U, $2999.**

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CLEVER CLIMBER

The DREAME X50 ULTRA is leaps ahead, designed to climb into and clean previously unreachable spaces.

SideReach brushes

HyperStream Detangling DuoBrush

W2 PRO OMNI
Please select a mode and start cleaning
Remote Control
Thorough Cleaning
Start
Return
ECOVACS

EXPERT GLASS CLEANING

For streak-free, edge-to-edge cleaning, the WINBOT W2 PRO OMNI offers the ultimate glass solution.

Anti-dropping technology

Ensure stable movement and no slippage with auto air pressure compensation and 5500Pa suction power for peace of mind.

Along-the-edge mode

Equipped with multiple sensors to navigate around obstacles and prevent jamming, the WINBOT features an industry-first cleaning mode that improves edge cleaning by 65 per cent.

Preset cleaning options

With WIN-SLAM 4.0 smart planning and a sensor smart detection frame, the Winbot adapts to all types of windows and scenarios. You can choose from four preset cleaning mode options through the ECOVACS HOME app to meet all your window cleaning needs.

Hands-free multifunctional dock

The versatile OMNI Station serves as a control panel, charger, stabiliser and portable storage unit for a truly hands-off experience. A single charge provides up to 110 minutes of operation, covering an area of up to 55 square metres.

WINBOT W2 PRO OMNI WINDOW CLEANING ROBOT, WG851-WINBOT, $999.

Anti-dropping protection

Intelligent planning

Harvey Norman®

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HN.COM.AU OR CALL **1300 464 278**

Each Harvey Norman® store is operated by an independent franchisee.
Accessories shown are not included. Promotion ends 25/06/2025.

MELISSA PENFOLD & ISABELLA WALKER-SMITH

CUSHIONS

CUSHIONS TO A ROOM ARE LIKE JEWELLERY TO AN OUTFIT: THE FINISHING TOUCH. OUR EXPERTS SHARE THEIR SHOPPING AND STYLING SECRETS.

PHOTOGRAPHY *Kristina Šoljo*

Melissa and Isabella's love for tasselled velvet is evident in the range of Fred Home cushions they've styled here at Boyd Blue.

Hair and make-up by Michelle Cox using Dermalogica, Armani Beauty and Oribe. Styling by Sophie Wilson.

“GO FOR CONTRASTS AND MIX PATTERNS.

Cushions are one of a decorator’s most adaptable tools. They can be a great remedy to boost a sofa, chair or bed’s morale. If a room seems too dark, cushions can lighten it up. If it’s boring, they can add flash and pump up the volume. A mix of different designs is more visually interesting than a uniform set. Contrasting shades and styles add depth.

In my (Melissa’s) living room I have a mix of pistachio, sage and brown cushions – colours that are present in the room in art and other textiles, which unifies the space.

Always use an odd number of cushions because asymmetry makes styling look more natural. For example, style two on either end of a sofa and one in the middle, or place two to one side and three to the other. But don’t ‘over-cushion’ and keep them at a reasonable scale. Generally, this means choices no taller than the sofa back.

Choose plain fabrics or bold patterns and colours, or interesting details such as appliqué, ombre velvet, embossed silk or a regiment of stripes. Combine big and small patterns; style various textures tête-à-tête.

From square to round, textural spheres to rectangular silhouettes, there’s something to suit every style and setting. Whether you go monochrome or mix-and-match, there’s no shortage of best-selling designs that will give your space the oomph it needs. We’ve rounded up our favourite places to shop for cushions, including designer-worthy pieces that prove you can have smart things on a budget. There’s so much choice, you’re sure to find something you'll love.

ADAIRS

Adairs is brimming with all kinds of interior decorating finds, including plenty of cushion covers – ideal for when you need to ditch an old cover that doesn’t fit into your colour scheme anymore. Give old cushion inserts new life with some scalloped linen shams or floral embroidered velvet options in all kinds of prints and fabrics. Look for the ‘Sephora’ pink floral, velvet cushion, $79.99, ‘Mirri’ velvet cushion in Sage, $69.99, ‘Yuri’ cushion in Sand, $89.99, or the boucle white ball cushion, $74.99. *adairs.com.au*

BONNIE AND NEIL

Cosy, chic, original designs in linen, cotton, boucle or velvet. The indoor cushions and bolsters come with a soft feather insert, and the outdoor cushions are covered with water-repellent linen and filled with mould-resistant foam. In the mix, you’ll find a fair few modern shapes, endless colourways and patterns, from bold stripes to floral prints. See the ‘Bold Stripe’ cushion in Hazelnut, $209, ‘Herb Reverse’ cushion in Beige, $209, and ‘Double Waves’ outdoor cushion in Pink, $295. *bonnieandneil.com.au*

CASTLERY

If you gravitate towards neutral colour palettes, Castlery might become your go-to spot for impulse cushion buys. The brand is well known for chic furniture with sweeping curves, but it would be a shame to skip the cushions. The sophisticated monochromatic designs would perfectly complement a minimalist living room. The ‘Velluto’ cushion in Olive Gold velvet, $89, ‘Teddy’ cushion in White, $89, ‘Infinity’ cushion in Performance Ginger, $89, and great choices. *castlery.com*

CITTÀ

Known for sustainable design, this New Zealand company curates products from Fairtrade artisans and aims to use natural materials derived from organic and renewable origins. The ‘Lucille’ cushion cover, $90.90, is made from reclaimed off-cuts from the Indian garment trade. See the velvet cushion cover in Cod, $55, the abstract printed ‘Nomad’ cushion cover in Bronze/Natural, $59.50, and the heavy linen jute cushion cover in Masala, $100. *cittadesign.com*

CULTIVER

The Australian company makes beautifully crafted linens and cushions featured in interiors the world over. The magic is in the details and top-shelf materials like the highest-grade linen around. We love the colours, which is what drew us to these cushions in the first place. They’re the perfect shade of flax, cinnabar or turmeric, ever so slightly timeworn. ‘Recline’ linen cushion in artichoke, $180, ‘Talik’ velvet square cushion cover in Bronze, $140, ‘Mira’ linen cushion cover in Ana, $140. *cultiver.com.au*

DOMAYNE

Loads of popular updates here including its own good-looking brand, as well as popular lines like Aura, Linen House, Sheridan and Eadie in everything from cotton to cashmere, linen, velvet, boucle, and jacquard. Designs are made in India, with most prices around the $60 to $80 mark. Take a look at Aura ‘Herringbone’ linen vintage designs with vertical stripe in Khaki, Tobacco, Natural, and Charcoal, Eadie ‘Luca’ in Natural, Dust or Turmeric, as well as own brand ‘Forli’ velvet with linen flange in Nougat or Black. *domayne.com.au*

TEAM STRIPES WITH CHECKS AND PLAINS.”

ECODOWNUNDER

Showcasing Ecodownunder’s sustainable credentials, the square cushions are made from 100 per cent certified organic cotton that allows for a luxurious touch to any space. Just like its sustainable best-selling bed linen, cushions are available in neutral colourways. Our picks? The ‘Malabar’ cushion cover in Sand or Navy, $59, and ‘Coral Blue’ cushion cover, $69. *ecodownunder.com.au*

ETSY

A beacon for decor obsessives, Etsy platforms a global network of makers. So if you’re having trouble sourcing the exact colour or print you want at a big-box store, there’s a good chance you’ll be able to unearth a rare fabric here or order something bespoke to your taste and sizing preferences. *etsy.com*

FRED HOME

A blend of aspiration and simple realism keeps these designs fresh. Materials and colours fraternise in beautiful ways: Chalk, Turmeric, Milk, Yolk and Olive are favourite combos that team with linen, wool and silk to cook up truly contemporary looks. See the ‘Sofia’ cushion in Chalk linen with Turmeric fringe, $265, ‘Snow Lion’ bolster in Creme boucle with natural double brush fringe, $235, or our choice, ‘Fred’ in Dark Olive Velvet with Cream bullion fringe, $270. *fredhome.com.au*

FREEDOM

Look at ‘Swanston’, plush tufting in Clove or Ivory, $69.95, ‘Amal’ crushed velvet chenille in Chocolate, Moss, Charcoal, Stone, Navy or Mustard, with feather inners, $79.95, or ‘Marika’ a multicoloured, rug-like print, $69.95. Then there’s ‘Bichon’ in a loop yarn, in Black, Ivory or Brown, $59.95. Other great choices include ‘Marlborough’, ‘Arii’, ‘Lexi’ and ‘Vinnie’, $99.95. *freedom.com.au*

HARVEY NORMAN

Choose from more than 300 options, with indoor and outdoor cushions in cotton, linen, leather, chenille, jacquard, sateen, canvas, velvet, or poly blends, from $20 to $200. We recommend the L’Avenue ‘Callie’ in Olive or Natural, and you can’t go past the thickly padded VidaXL cotton pallet floor cushion in Beige, ideal for banquettes. *harveynorman.com.au*

H&M

Another mega-retailer that merchandises sustainable options at an attainable price point. Classic colours and designs to stand out on your sectional or blend in with a few mix-and-match options. There are beautiful botanical printed, ruffled and striped options available in store, located in most major cities across the country. *hm.com/en_au*

KING LIVING

King Living makes the kind of exclusive, tailored cushions that feel like a genuine indulgence in a great line of premium fabrics and European leathers. Great looks you can tailor to your requirements. There are even outdoor options in high-performance Sunbrella fabrics backed by a five-year warranty. Great detailing, too. ‘Sadie’, ‘Chelsea’ and ‘Panama’ outdoor cushions are favourites, from $90. *kingliving.com.au*

KIP&CO

The place to go if you want to add a little joy to lacklustre sofas and beds. Eye-catching and playful, these sunny cushions offer fun moments, from Jenny Kee prints to textured patterns, tasselled velvet beauties and bold boucle bolsters. ▶

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1 ‘Mirri’ **velvet cushion** in Sage, $69.99, Adairs. 2 ‘Herb Reverse’ **cushion** in Beige, $209, Bonnie and Neil. 3 ‘Teddy’ **cushion** in White, $89, Castlery. 4 ‘Talik’ **velvet cushion** in Bronze, $140, Cultiver. 5 Aura ‘Herringbone’ **linen cushion** in Khaki, $69, Domayne.

> “THINK OF THE BEST CUSHIONS AS THE ICING ON THE CAKE FOR ANY DRAB INTERIOR SITUATION.”

Our favourite part about these are the shapes – discs, petals, ruffled hearts – and their reversible designs can be flipped for a fresh look, making them ideal for children’s rooms. Check the ‘Rosette’ and ‘Pea’ velvet cushions. *kipandco.com.au*

KMART

No visit to Kmart (virtual or physical) is complete without a peek at the furnishings. Their line-up of cushions gets us every time with classic prints and patterns. See the 50cm ‘Stripe’ cushion in Forest, $10, and ‘Stripe Bow’ cushion in Sunset, $10. *kmart.com.au*

LIVING BY DESIGN

Our love for Living by Design is well-documented, and the brand has a robust selection that ranges from wool, cotton and linen, to jute, alpaca and suee. For a subdued coastal vibe, we like the chunky wool covers. The designer’s go-to for homewares, and reliably good value and quality. Subtle patterns and detailing add variety to the collection of attractive textures. Look up the ‘Ricca’ hand-woven cushion in Rust + Ivory Stripe, $34.99, and ‘Johan Regency Stripe’ in Ice Blue, $39.99. *livingbydesign.net.au*

L&M HOME

One of our go-to sources to find the best cushion updates. Their timeless collection of gorgeous options is available

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1 ‘Marlborough’ **scatter cushion** in Ivory, $69.95, Freedom. **2** ‘Panama’ square **outdoor cushion** with airmesh panel in Malibu Seafoam, $182, King Living. **3** ‘Rosette Pea’ **velvet cushion**, $79 Kip&Co. **4** ‘Rica’ **hand-woven cushion** in Rust + Ivory, $34.99, Living by Design. **5** ‘Lorenzo’ **cushion** in Baked Clay, $114, L&M Home. **ABOVE** ‘Javier’ **bolster** in Green Mustard, ‘Fred’ **cushion** in with Cream Bullion Fringe, $270, and ‘Sofia’ **cushions** in Chalk Linen with Natural or Fennel Fringe, $265 each, all Fred Home. Artwork and Boyd x Kate Nixon ‘Wingham’ sideboard, both Boyd Blue.

Styling by Sophie Wilson. Photography by Kristina Šoljo.

in multiple sizes and colourways in linen, wool and silk. There's a good chance you'll find the cushion of your dreams in their chic line-up. We're big fans of 'Mae' pure linen bolsters, 'Etro' mini velvet cushions in Eucalypt, 'Burton' in Vintage Blue, Seagrass, Liquorice, Toffee or Oatmeal, 'Lorenzo' in Baked clay, 'Paradiso' and 'Soleil'. *lmhome.com.au*

LUCY MONTGOMERY

Investment pieces that offer lasting luxury. Lucy Montgomery, who has done designer collaborations with Jardan, Cadrys and Ralph Lauren, plays with the classics – think hand-printed rows of contrasting stripes and quality Belgian linen. The premium feathered inserts are among the best around. Seek out the LMC 'Petit' collection. *lucymontgomery.com*

LUXE & BEAU

The hunt for classic, well-crafted cushions ends at Luxe & Beau. You'll find decorative cushions in English-style florals, stripes, leopard prints and plains, all offering a perfect balance of softness and crispness. The Canberra-based brand peddles an exclusive line of sumptuous options in delightfully pretty prints, such as 'Chinoiserie' in Beige, Green or Blue, $129, 'Classic Leopard', $129, 'Camille', in Green, Beige, or Blue, $129, and 'Stripe', reminiscent of Colefax & Fowler designs, for a lot less. *luxeandbeau.com.au*

MCM HOUSE

You might know MCM House as a solid brand to source your next sofa, but the retailer also has a small selection of cushions used on its famous 'Joe' and 'Elio' sofas that you can buy separately. The 'Joe' scatter cushion in brushed linen, with overlock stitching and feather insert, is available in three colours: Chalk, Mist or Buck, $145. Also see the popular 'Elio' scatter cushion, $175. *mcmhouse.com*

MYER

With such a wide variety of cushionsfrom well-known brands such as Australian House & Garden, Aura Home, Country Road and Linen House, you'll have no trouble finding the perfect cushions to invite softness into your home. Try the Australian House & Garden 'Belongil' woven cushion in White or Forest, $79.95, Cadence & Co 'Bronte' velvet cushion in Green Tea, $34, and the Linen House 'Toro' velvet cushion in Leaf, $84.99. *myer.com.au*

NO CHINTZ

Scrolling through the options here can inspire a moment of interior genius. Quality fabrics in lots of designs, patterns and shades, with stripes, checks, tickings and florals, plaids, ikats, in tried and tested combinations. Walter G 'Petra' cushion in Dusk, $154, 'Ink Blot' multi cushion cover, $172, and 'Adras' linen cushion in Tobacco, $160. *nochintz.com*

PALOMA LIVING

The brand hits a sweet spot with its selection of Hamptons-coastal meets rustic charm. Ideal if you're on a budget and want something to keep for a long time. They stock a great selection of decorative cushions that give any sofa or bed set-up a well-rounded feel. Melissa has used these cushions in her own home for years. The cushions team subdued contrast stitching with fantastic designs that are perfect for layering. Take a look at designs like 'Riviera', 'Portsea', 'Sorrento', 'Catalina', 'Newport', 'St Lucia', 'Athena', and 'Allesia'. You can layer your entire house, without the help of a decorator. *palomaliving.com.au*

PIGOTT'S STORE

Cotton prints, hand-blocked in India, that would look at home in a grand English country house. Owner Nano Sefton has been travelling to India for decades to design and produce the exclusive line of cushion covers, which have a huge following among the world's best designers and are shipped worldwide from her Woollahra store. Seek out popular designs like 'Moghul Rose Border' cushion cover in Aqua, $85, 'Sanganori Buta' mini pillow case, $54, 'Gita Paisley' cushion cover in Green, $90, as well as 'Indian Summer', 'Chicken Feet', 'Parrot', 'Bumble', 'Lotus Sunflower', 'Roberta Jal' and the most wonderful handmade tapestry cushions, $435. *pigottsstore.com.au* ▶

1

2

3

4

5

1 'LMC Petit' **striped cushion** with ruffle, $330, Lucy Montgomery. 2 Australian House & Garden 'Belongil' **cushion** in White, $79.95, Myer. 3 Walter G 'Adras' **linen cushion** in Tobacco, $160, No Chintz. 4 'Alessia' **linen striped cushion**, POA, Paloma Living. 5 'Moghul' Rose Border **cushion cover**, $85, Pigott's Store.

"WE PREFER SOFTER, LESS STRUCTURED CUSHIONS THAT YOU CAN SINK INTO."

POTTERY BARN

Stacks of cushions that interweave textures, colours and patterns, and that give a sense of warmth and timelessness. Designs are sold at a happy midpoint between budget and luxury, with a highly curated colour palette. In addition to everyday bestsellers, there's a solid seasonal selection including suzani, ikat, embroidery, jacquard, linen florals, paisley prints and crewel designs. Take a look at the 'Bleeker' embroidered ikat in green and white cotton slub, $99. Or the 'Waylon Stripe', a yarn-dyed wool blend brown and cream stripe design, $149, or the Missoni-inspired 'Paloma' cotton/jute design, $89. *potterybarn.com.au*

SHACK

The 30-year old retailer has affordable generous-sized cushions, $45 to $65, in any shape, size, colour, and style you might desire. We use the Indian print cushions on chairs and beds, which measure a generous 55x55cm and come in all kinds of earthy, easy-to-mix Indian prints, such as 'Kasbah' in Stormy Sea, $55, 'Citadel' in Olive, $55, 'Castillo' in Stormy Sea, $55. *shack.com.au*

WALTER G

Friends Lauren Emerson and Genevieve Hewson founded the boutique textile house in 2012, specialising in some of the best hand-block printed cushions. The pair work with artisans all over India to create cushions that are made with traditional techniques in ethical workshops and small collectives. The hand-loomed offerings range from earthy, neutral colours in natural shades of Saffron, Jupiter, Shell, Musk, Teal, Tobacco, Mud, Spice and Azure, using non-toxic dyes that represent the brand's commitment to thoughtful manufacturing and natural materials. Go for renowned shibori cushions like 'Akola Musk', $193, 'Burano Wasabi', $160, 'Cedella Celadon Moss', $175, supplied with a planet-friendly inner that gives them a squishy, plump feel. *walter-g.com.au*

WEAVE HOME

Plain needn't mean bland, as Weave's bestselling 'Como' and 'Ava' velvet ranges prove. Made from a gently textured blends of cotton and linen, it's the subtle colour palette that makes these cushions covetable. Mix and match its plushly soft cushions to instantly make a sofa, bed or armchair look and feel more luxurious. The deep rusty tones of these popular designs like 'Domenica', 'Dante', 'Vito', 'Fiore', 'Franco' and 'Ottavio' in shades of Clay, Cinnamon, Olive, Ochre, Moss, and Steel will work in most settings. Our picks include 'Ava' in Seaglass, $55.95, 'Marina' in Laurel, $109.95, and 'Vinnie' in Manuka, $99.95. *weavehome.com.au*

WEST ELM

You won't go wrong with this selection. Given their wide variety of cushion sets, covers, and inserts, chances are you'll find everything you need right here. In the mix, you'll find a fair amount of modern shapes and fashionable colours. We love the Windy Mountains covers, an abstract landscape made from silk, with cotton backing that look like marble-streaked numbers, formed of layers of chenille and jacquard textures, $54. *westelm.com.au* **H&G**

Natural selection

All of the tough work of shopping for the big investments – sofas, coffee tables and rugs – is behind you and now you get to have fun.

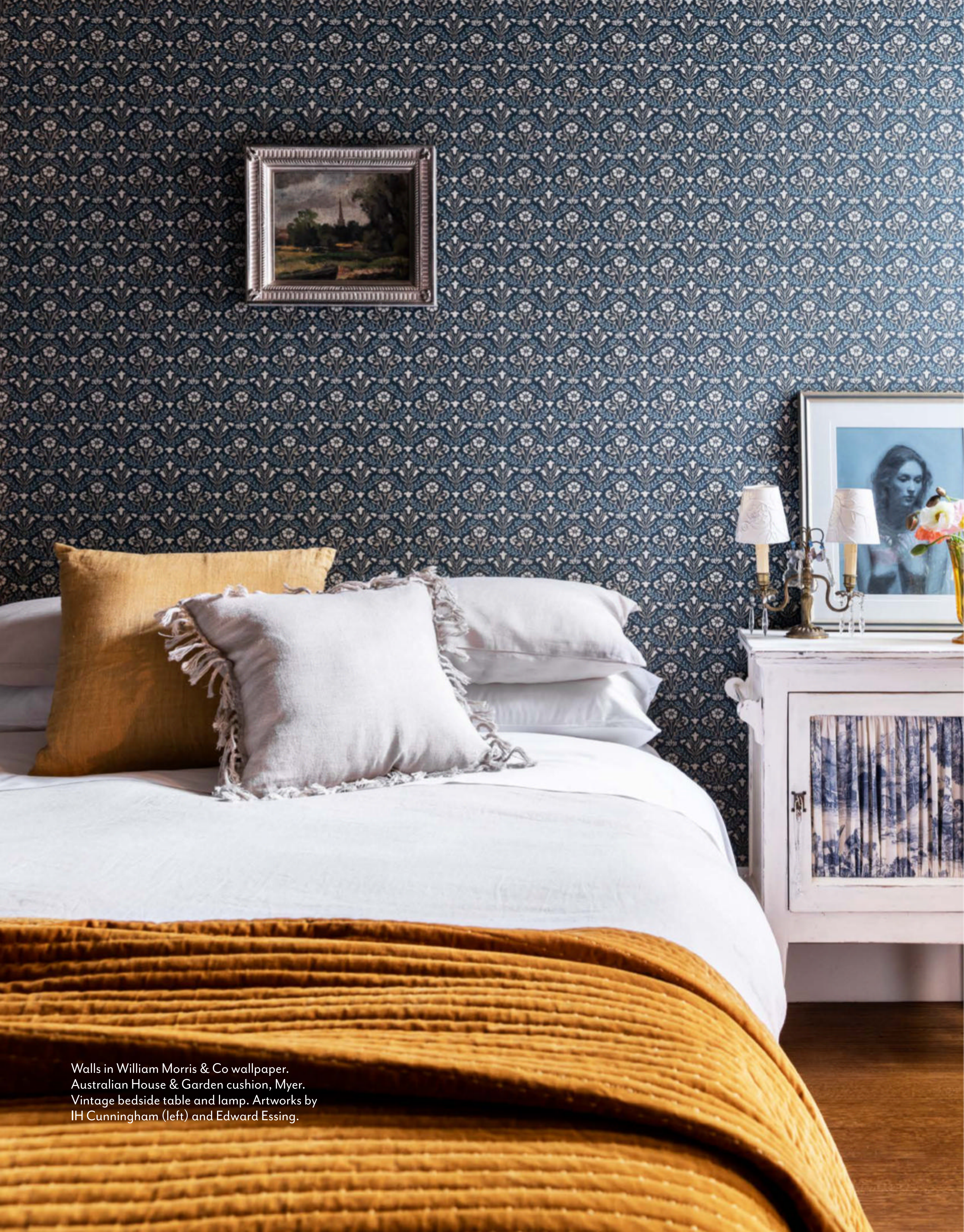
Style it right
People often go wrong by cluttering a sofa with too many cushions of the same size. Overstuffed cushions can also be off-putting. They shouldn't be so intrusive that you can't sit on the sofa. We prefer softer, less structured ones you can sink into.

Make your own
Scour antique shops and markets for scraps of tapestries, needlepoints, mud cloths and other fabrics, then have them sewn into cases – something that's easy enough to do with a sewing machine.

Perfect match
Go for contrasts and mix big and small patterns (same-sized patterns together look wrong) Opposites are also attractive. Team stripes with checks, florals with plains. Old with new. Smooth with rough.

Next month
ACCESSORIES

Styling by Olga Lewis. Photograph by Martina Gemmola.



Walls in William Morris & Co wallpaper. Australian House & Garden cushion, Myer. Vintage bedside table and lamp. Artworks by IH Cunningham (left) and Edward Essing.

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Delicious EASTER recipes AND FRESH seasonal STYLING
A clever two-zone kitchen filled with texture has warmed up the heart of thi...
Buyer's guide to shower heads
Outdoor lounge chair: best picks for summer
5 interior trends to keep your eye on in 2024

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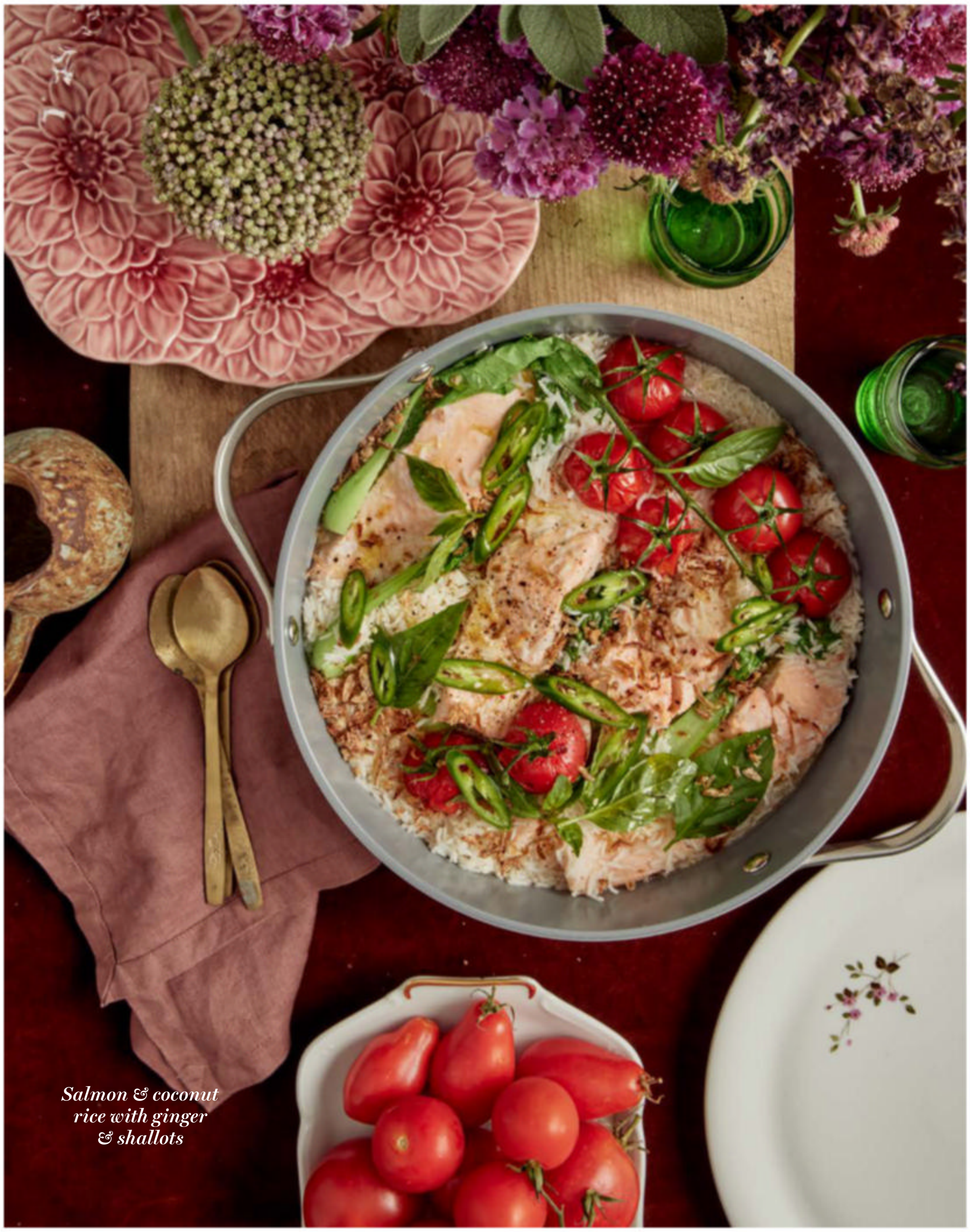
Entertaining

COMFORTING RECIPES TO WARM UP CHILLY NIGHTS

Styling by Steve Cordony and Olga Lewis. Photograph by Alana Landsberry. Calligraphy by Lesley Workman.

'Maria Flor' dinner plate, Bordallo Pinheiro. 'Delicate' plate, Dusty Luxe.

Winter warmers



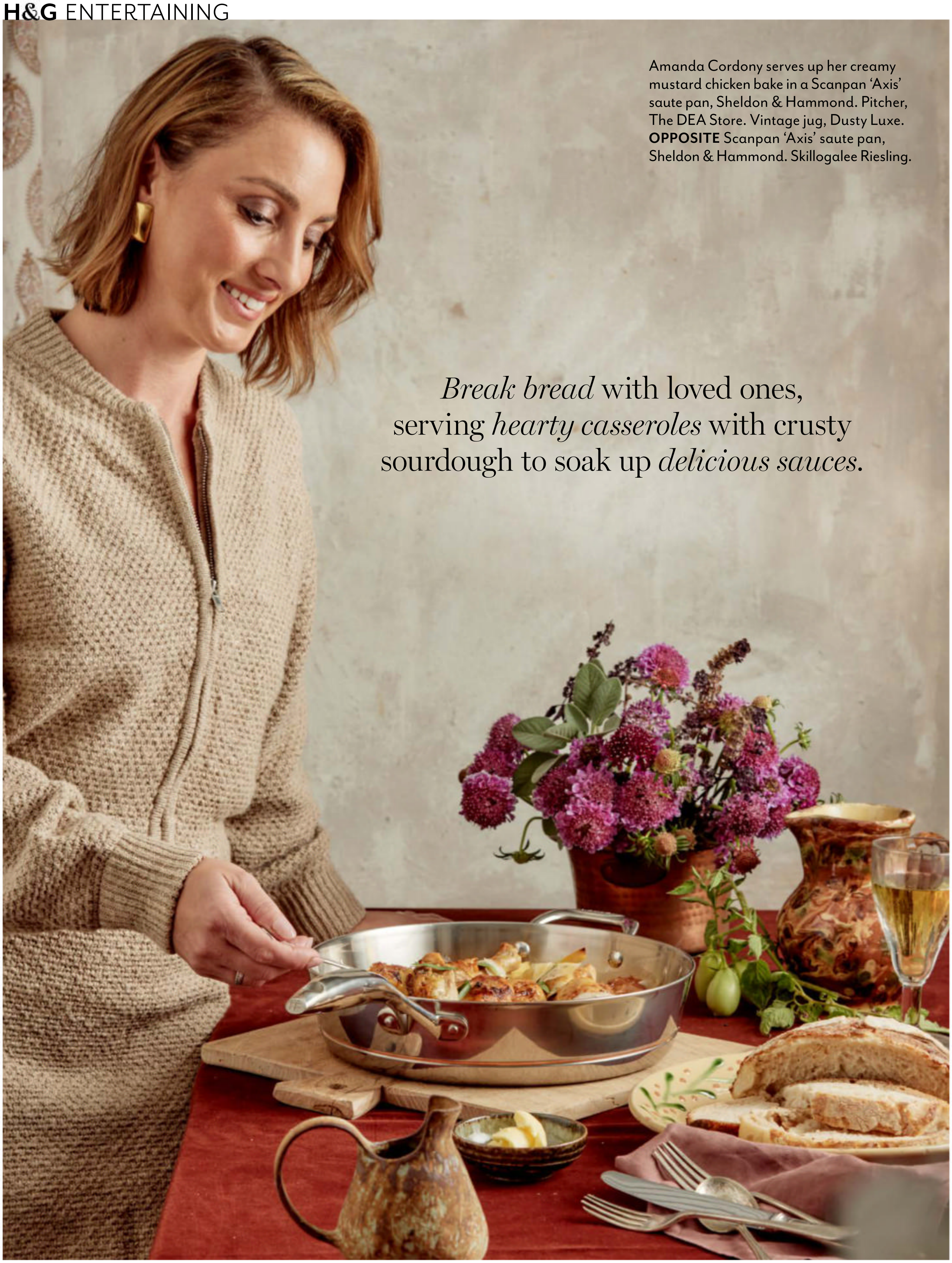
Salmon & coconut rice with ginger & shallots

Set the scene for a cosy night in and serve up hearty meals that nourish and satisfy, brought to you by The Cordony Kitchen.

RECIPES *Amanda Cordony* | STYLING *Steve Cordony & Olga Lewis* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Alana Landsberry*

Chipotle chicken with cauliflower

Chasseur casserole in Brilliant White, Sheldon & Hammond. 'Maria Flor Hollyhock' bowl, Bordallo Pinheiro. **OPPOSITE** 'Nexgen' chef pan, Sheldon & Hammond. 'Maria Flor' plate, Bordallo Pinheiro. Antique plate, Dusty Luxe.



Amanda Cordony serves up her creamy mustard chicken bake in a Scanpan 'Axis' saute pan, Sheldon & Hammond. Pitcher, The DEA Store. Vintage jug, Dusty Luxe. **OPPOSITE** Scanpan 'Axis' saute pan, Sheldon & Hammond. Skillogalee Riesling.

Break bread with loved ones, serving *hearty casseroles* with crusty sourdough to soak up *delicious sauces.*

Hair and make-up by Michelle Cox.

Creamy mustard chicken bake

SKILLOGALEE
RIESLING
CLARE VALLEY

SALMON & COCONUT RICE WITH GINGER & SHALLOTS

Prep time: 15 minutes.
Cooking time: 15 minutes.
Serves: 4–6.

1 cup basmati rice, rinsed well
2 garlic cloves, roughly chopped
4cm-piece fresh ginger, finely grated
400ml coconut milk
2 tablespoons (40ml) soy sauce
4 salmon fillets (150g each), skin off, pin-boned
250g cocktail truss tomatoes
1 bunch bok choy, quartered lengthways
2 tablespoons shop-bought fried shallots, 1 thinly sliced long green chilli, and 10g basil leaves, to serve

1 Place a shallow casserole over medium-high heat. Add rice, garlic and ginger. Cook, stirring, for 2 minutes.
2 Reduce heat to medium. Add coconut milk and soy sauce, and stir. Add salmon and tomatoes to casserole and simmer, covered, over low heat for 8 minutes.
3 Remove lid. Arrange bok choy around salmon and simmer, uncovered, for 5 minutes or until liquid is almost absorbed.
4 Add shallots, chilli and basil. Season to taste and serve.

CHIPOTLE CHICKEN WITH CAULIFLOWER

Prep time: 20 minutes + resting.
Cooking time: 35 minutes.
Serves: 4–6.

2 tablespoons chipotle powder
1 teaspoon garlic powder
1 teaspoon ground cumin
3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
6 chicken thigh fillets (800g–1kg), skin off, de-boned
1 small cauliflower, cut into florets
1 onion, diced
2 cloves garlic, minced
½ cup (125ml) chicken stock
400ml coconut cream
1 lime, juiced
5g coriander leaves, lime wedges, and cooked rice, to serve

1 In a large bowl, combine chipotle powder, garlic powder, cumin and 1 tablespoon of the oil. Season. Rub spice mix over chicken, ensuring it's well coated. Cover and place in fridge for at least 30 minutes or overnight.
2 In a large (30cm) round, shallow casserole, heat 1 tablespoon of the oil over medium-high heat. Add chicken and cook for 5 minutes each side, until golden. Remove from pan and set aside.
3 In the same pan over medium heat, add cauliflower, onion and garlic, with remaining oil and season. Stir and saute for 5 minutes.
4 Add stock and coconut cream and bring to a gentle simmer. Return chicken to pan and cook over medium-low heat, uncovered, for 20 minutes until chicken is cooked through and sauce is reduced.
5 Stir through lime juice, scatter over coriander, and serve with lime wedges and a side of cooked rice.

CREAMY MUSTARD CHICKEN BAKE

Prep time: 15 minutes.
Cooking time: 50 minutes.
Serves: 4–6.

8 chicken drumsticks
1 tablespoon sea salt
½ teaspoon cracked pepper
2 tablespoons smoked paprika
2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
3 parsnips, peeled, halved, cut into wedges
4 small brown onions, peeled, quartered
400g butter beans, drained and rinsed
2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
1 cup (250ml) thickened cream
1½ cups (375ml) chicken stock
2 cloves garlic, minced
5g tarragon, finely chopped, plus extra leaves to garnish
150g pecorino, shaved
Mashed potato or crusty sourdough, to serve

1 Preheat oven to 200°C (180°C fan).
2 Season chicken with salt, pepper and paprika. Heat oil in a large ovenproof pan over medium-high. Place chicken in pan and cook, stirring occasionally, for 5 minutes until golden. Add parsnips, onions and beans to pan.
3 In a medium bowl, whisk together mustard, cream, stock, garlic and chopped tarragon. Pour mixture over chicken.
4 Bake for 45 minutes or until chicken is golden brown and cooked through. Season.
5 Scatter over tarragon leaves and pecorino. Serve with a side of mashed potato or crusty sourdough.

APPLE, SUNFLOWER SEED & CINNAMON MUFFINS

Prep time: 20 minutes.
Cooking time: 25 minutes.
Serves: 4–6.

2 green apples, peeled, chopped into cubes
1 lemon, juiced (40ml)
½ cup sunflower seeds, ground
1½ cups oat flour
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 teaspoon baking powder
¼ teaspoon sea salt
1 tablespoon vanilla protein powder
2 eggs, room temperature
1 cup natural Greek yoghurt
¼ cup maple syrup
1 tablespoon light extra virgin olive oil
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
⅓ cup demerara sugar
2 tablespoons sunflower seeds

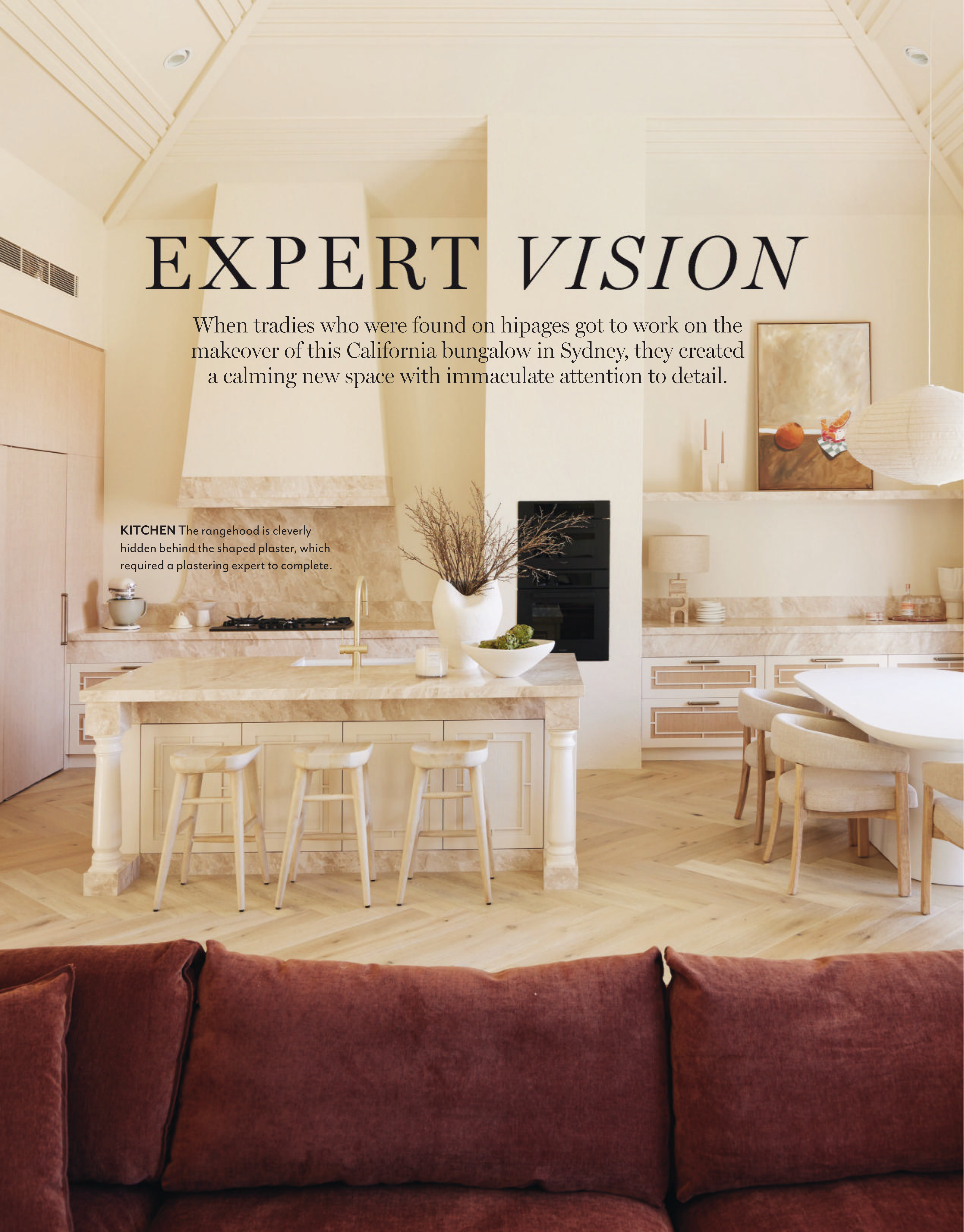
1 Preheat oven to 200°C (180°C fan) and line a muffin tin with paper muffin liners.
2 In a small bowl, mix together apple and lemon juice. Set aside.
3 In a large bowl, mix ground sunflower seeds, oat flour, cinnamon, baking powder, sea salt and protein powder. Set aside.
4 In a small bowl, lightly whisk eggs, yoghurt, maple syrup, oil and vanilla extract.
5 Add wet ingredients to dry ingredients and mix until just combined. Gently fold in apples with lemon juice.
6 Spoon batter into muffin liners until about three-quarters full. Sprinkle each muffin with demerara sugar and sunflower seeds.
7 Bake for 20 minutes, until a toothpick inserted into the centre comes out clean. Cool slightly before serving. **H&G**

Vintage French marbled glazed jug from the French Alps, Dusty Luxe.

Apple, sunflower seed & cinnamon muffins

EXPERT *VISION*

When tradies who were found on hipages got to work on the makeover of this California bungalow in Sydney, they created a calming new space with immaculate attention to detail.



KITCHEN The rangehood is cleverly hidden behind the shaped plaster, which required a plastering expert to complete.

GARDEN The backyard's carpet of emerald green buffalo grass was laid by experts to ensure it thrived during the crucial establishment months.

EXPERTS AT WORK Tradies sourced from hipages were able to offer qualified services and advice across many components of the renovation.

The owners of this home handed over their design vision and keys to Three Birds Renovations, knowing the results would be amazing. The brief was broad yet simple – and the owners were blown away by the success of the completed project.

Working hand-in-hand with quality suppliers, Three Birds looked to hipages to source tradies who could bring their premium aesthetic to life. While any renovation can start out with a big vision, seasoned professionals will tell you that the best result can only be realised through hard work, quality trades and attention to detail.

For House 17 (see page 126), the Three Birds Renovations team relied on hipages to source an expert renderer who could meet the challenge of the beautiful fireplace, oven wall and textured rangehood. For the exterior spaces, they sourced a landscaper who could help realise the backyard with its stunning new swimming pool, while planting out the front yard with a simple but stylish selection of natives and ornamentals to complement the heritage of the house.

"When the job came through on hipages, I knew it was something special," says Behroz from Apex Painting & Decorating. "It's been incredible to bring my expertise to the Three Birds House 17 project and create custom rendering that really elevated the look and feel of the home."

BRING YOUR VISION TO LIFE

Whether it's a small job or a bigger renovation or home project, hipages connects homeowners with trusted tradies to simplify the project.

Easy to use With the app, homeowners can simply upload their job or project to the network of 33,000 tradies on the platform.

Fast responses Once you've uploaded your job, hipages will connect you with up to three tradies who are keen to quote for and complete your project.

In good company Tradies and homeowners love the ease of hipages. More than 100,000 jobs are posted every month, connecting trusted tradies with homeowners. As Australia's number one place to connect with tradies, hipages provides a better, smarter way to get the job done well.

The hipages app is available for download on Google Play and The App Store, or scan the QR code above. For more, visit hipages.com.au.

hipages

H&G ESSENTIALS

Create a beautiful lifestyle and home with these must-have products.

The thoughtfully-designed Laguna tableware range by ***Australian House & Garden*** features a sleek, timeless design, perfect for any occasion from casual dinners to sophisticated entertaining. It's an effortless way to style up your table. Laguna 12-piece dinner set in Blue/White. $169.95, visit *myer.com.au* to learn more.

Elevate your undercover outdoor space with ***Living By Design***'s Borgaro Ceramica occasional table set, featuring a sleek, Mediterranean-inspired design and a ceramic-coated glass top with durable anthracite aluminium base for timeless elegance. RRP $379, visit *livingbydesign.net.au* to learn more.

Immerse yourself in ***Merchant Campbell***'s world of handmade soft furnishings, cashmere and Australian Merino wool, antique furniture, semi-precious jewellery, unique pieces for the garden and more. Curated goods honour traditions of artisans from around the globe and here in Australia. Shop the range at *merchantcampbell.com.au*

Australian House & Garden's Vernon table lamp combines style and warmth with its woven design, adding texture and a cosy ambience to your home. It's perfect as a statement piece or for creating a soft, inviting glow in any room. Lamp and shade measures 60cm high, linen shade is 42x20cm. Rattan base is 37x15cm. Visit *myer.com.au* to learn more.

Control grass runners permanently and with ease using ***EverEdge*** flexible steel garden edging. Perfect for lawns, driveways, paths, and flower and vegetables beds, EverEdge bends to any shape and permanently separates any two elements in your garden. Explore the entire range at *everedge.com.au* today.

Australian-made and customisable to any colour palette, ***Harvey Norman***'s Winton bed, featuring full-frame Warwick upholstery, will add warmth and style to your bedroom. Elevate your space with the contemporary chic detailing and use textural throws and cushions to complete the look. Learn more at *harveynorman.com.au*

Houses

STUNNING HOMES WITH IMPECCABLE WHITE SCHEMES

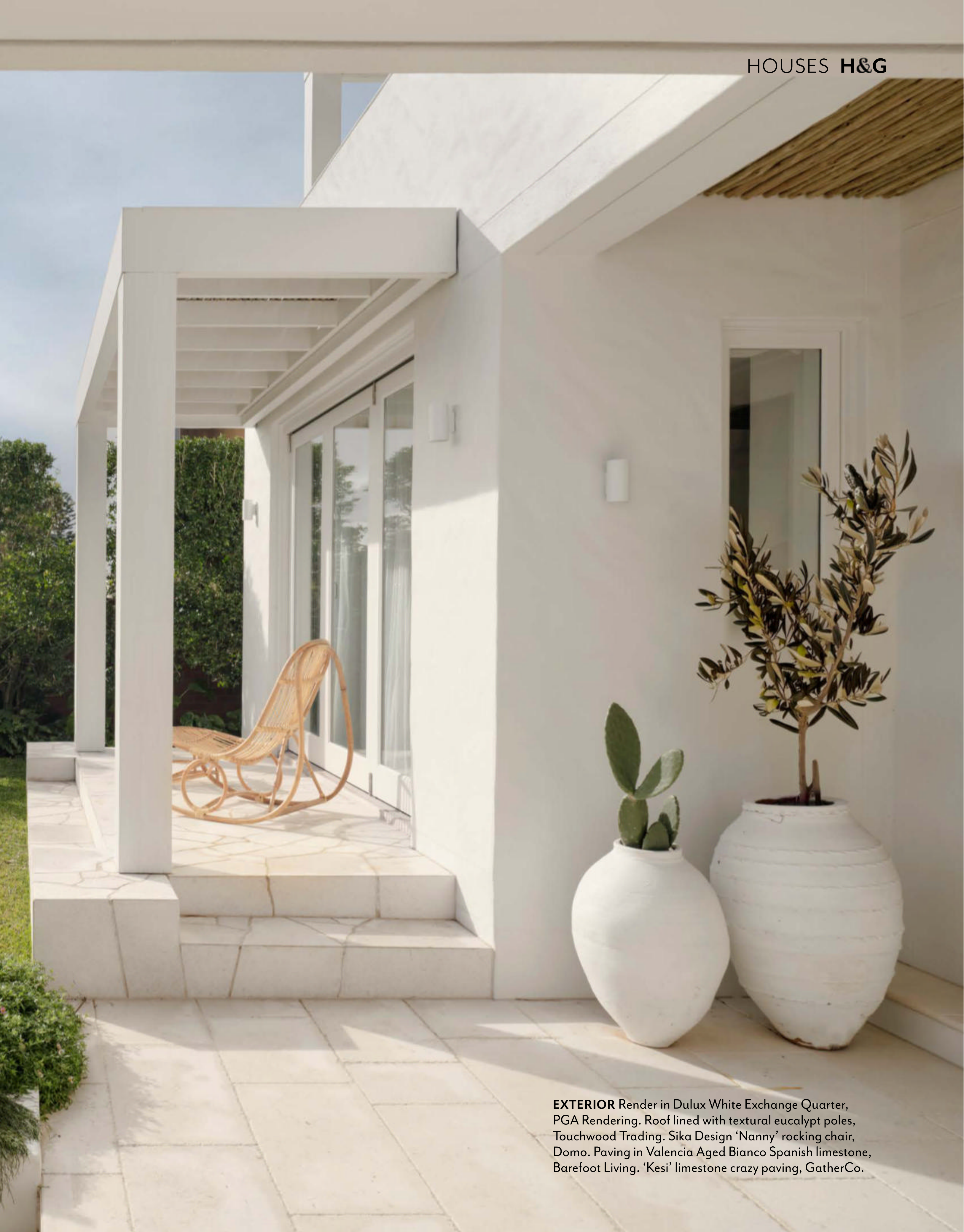
Architect Ricci Bloch and interior designer Jemma Brender teamed up to create a connected home for a growing family. Render in Dulux White Exchange Quarter, PGA Rendering. Limestone paving, GatherCo.

Styling by Jack Milenkovic. Photograph by Dave Wheeler. Calligraphy by Lesley Workman.

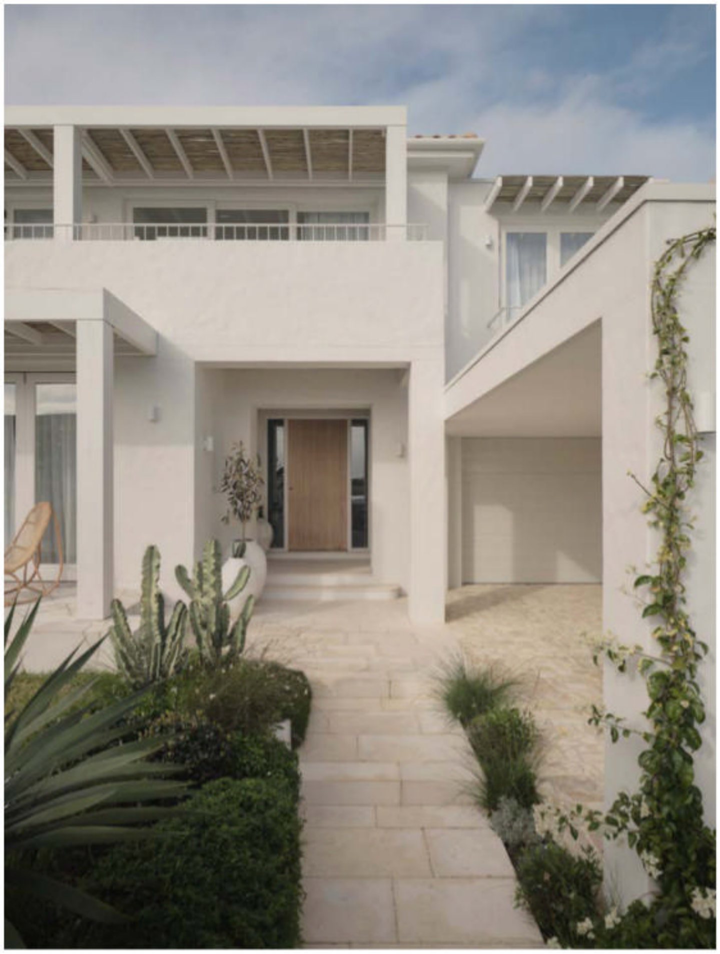
Good connections

For a Sydney family with three children nearing their teens, the desire for more space had to be fulfilled without compromising a sense of togetherness.

STORY *Eliza O'Hare* | STYLING *Jack Milenkovic* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Dave Wheeler*



EXTERIOR Render in Dulux White Exchange Quarter, PGA Rendering. Roof lined with textural eucalypt poles, Touchwood Trading. Sika Design 'Nanny' rocking chair, Domo. Paving in Valencia Aged Bianco Spanish limestone, Barefoot Living. 'Kesi' limestone crazy paving, GatherCo.



There are key moments in the timeline of every family when home becomes very important. One is when children begin the shift from childhood to adolescence. For a Sydney family with three daughters approaching this transformative stage, it was clear a renovation was required to weather the next 10 years. The challenge was to expand their home to allow privacy for each of the girls, but also maintain the sense of togetherness they had enjoyed in their three-bedroom, one-bathroom home over the five years they lived there.

The transformation would require thoughtful design decisions to make shared, private and transitional spaces flow, keeping future functionality front-of-mind. Enter interior designer Jemma Brender, who quickly realised what was needed to make the most of the space, the great view and a tricky natural wind tunnel. It was going to have to be structural. She called friend and architect Ricci Bloch. They had studied together but had never collaborated on a project. Now was the perfect opportunity.

"The owners loved the bones and feel of the existing P&O style house, but needed more space and privacy," shares Ricci. "They wanted to feel like they were on holiday in the Mediterranean – a house that was light and airy, easy ▶

KITCHEN Benchtop in Elba marble, Art Of Marble. Joinery, East2East Joinery. Splashback and rangehood in microcement, Idea Creations. Rattan pendant lights, The Vault Sydney. Hardware, Noble Elements. Tapware, The English Tapware Company. Sculpture by Scott McNeil. Armchair, Space. Stool, Aldini. Flooring in 'Genuine Oak' in Whitehaven, Hurford's. **ENTRY** Wire-brushed oak door, Bau Group. **DINING** Table, Gesso House. Chairs and Gaetano Pesce vase, all 506070.

to entertain in and big enough for their family to grow into the teenage years."

Jemma and Ricci's plan was to go bigger – so a handful of structural changes were made. "The floorplan was opened up to better connect the living spaces with front and back gardens and take advantage of the park and harbour views," says Ricci. The kitchen was relocated and a scullery/pantry added (doubling as a space for flower drying and a second kitchen for entertaining). The living and dining were expanded to create a sense of connection.

The pair added bedrooms, incorporated taller windows and doors and, most importantly, brought in light. The generous windows answer the brief for a Mediterranean style of casual living. To make more of the upstairs view, the main bedroom was moved, given a walk-in, ensuite, and a wide, covered balcony that takes in the sensational Sydney Harbour panorama. It's a showstopping vantage point for fireworks viewing as a family.

Next on the list was the creation of hangout zones. For a family that likes to entertain, there needed to be separate zones for the parents and their friends, and for their daughters' different friendship groups, all linked but also intimate. A perfect mix of community and privacy. The L-shaped rumpus room that sits adjacent to the pool is within sight of the main living on the opposite side of the house, making supervision feel natural, not enforced.

When it came to choosing the colour palette, Jemma had to keep in mind that the owners prefer texture over colour, so she settled on the cocooning effect of a warm creamy interior using Dulux Natural White. "The most important thing for me was to create a sense of comfort and calm for the family with the use of a restrained palette of neutral tones and textures," she says. She reflected that palette externally with matching render to conjure a seamless indoor-outdoor connection.

"Playing with warm, earthy materials, such as bush-hammered limestone, sand-blasted oak, microcement, eucalyptus poles and soft marble, captures the owners' brief of a comfortable yet timeless home," Ricci adds. The light play across zones gives subtle tonal contrast, even though the same white paint is used throughout. Ricci's admiration of Mexican architect Luis Barragán's modernist, emotional structures inspired the hidden lighting sources that throw ethereal light and shadow.

The calming effect continues in the kitchen where custom joinery houses the owner's ceramics collection and ample storage. For the family whose wish was connection, the panacea has turned out to be their live-powered kitchen island bench, constructed to host daily meal prep, as a space for homework and craft projects, and a general end-of-day debriefs – all with a stunning view to Sydney Harbour. Mission accomplished. ▶

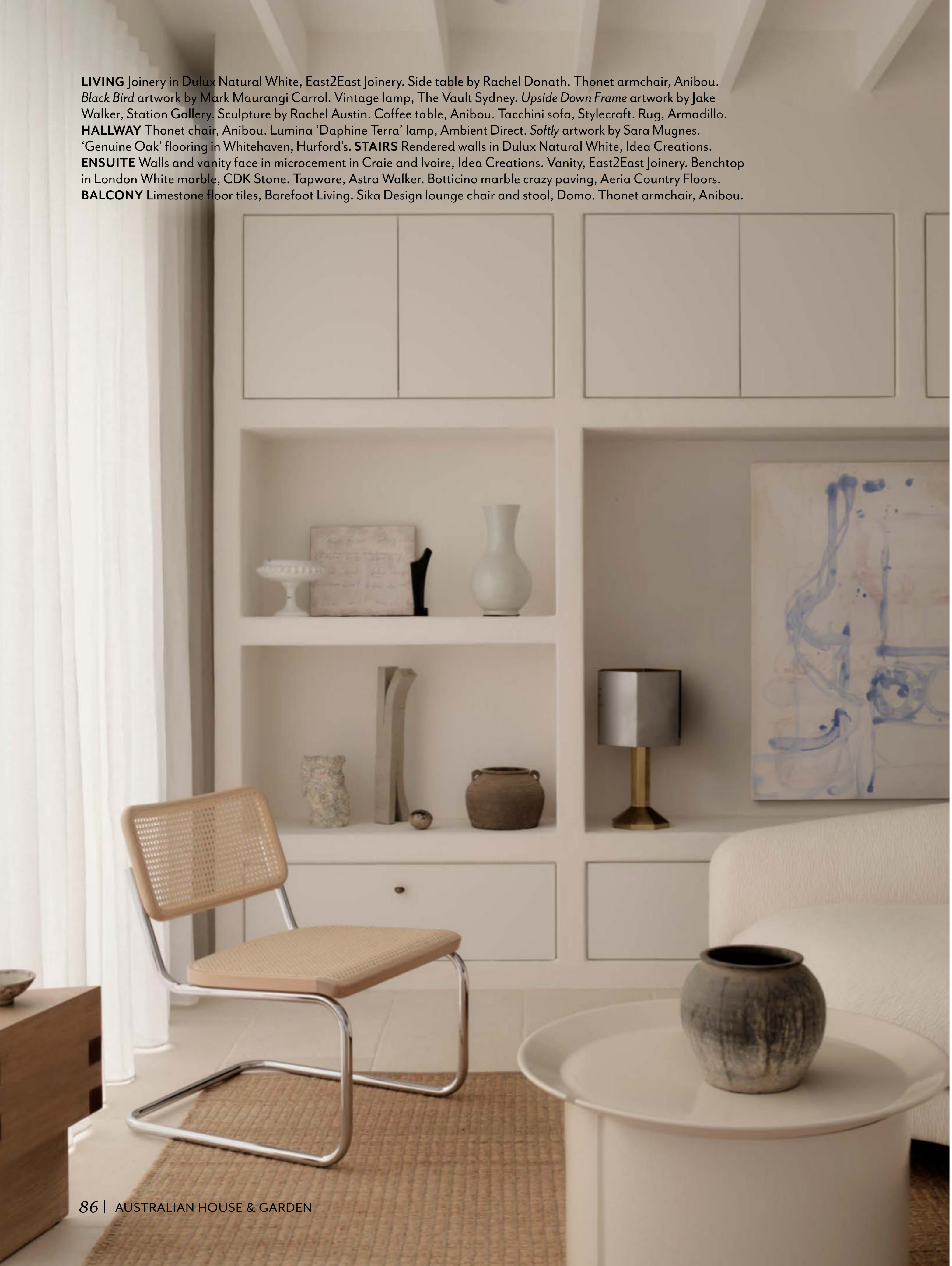
Jemma Brender Interior Design: *jemmabrender.com.au.*
Ricci Bloch Architecture + Interiors: *riccibloch.com.au.*
Bau Group: *baugroup.com.au.*
Selby Landscaping: *@selbylandscaping.*

LIVING Joinery and fireplace in Dulux Natural White, Idea Creations. Handles, Noble Elements. Window treatments, Fybre Furnishings. Vintage armchair, 506070. Coffee table, Rachel Donath. Baxter armchair and B&B Italia 'Le Bambole' sofa, both Space. ClassiCon side table, Anibou. Tacchini side table, Stylecraft. Table lamp, Boffi. *Softly* artwork by Sara Mugnes, Hake House. Floor lamp, Ambient Direct. Rug, Armadillo.

“I really love where the light filters through the fixed openings, evoking a sense of tranquillity.”

RICCI BLOCH, ARCHITECT

LIVING Joinery in Dulux Natural White, East2East Joinery. Side table by Rachel Donath. Thonet armchair, Anibou. *Black Bird* artwork by Mark Maurangi Carrol. Vintage lamp, The Vault Sydney. *Upside Down Frame* artwork by Jake Walker, Station Gallery. Sculpture by Rachel Austin. Coffee table, Anibou. Tacchini sofa, Stylecraft. Rug, Armadillo. **HALLWAY** Thonet chair, Anibou. Lumina 'Daphine Terra' lamp, Ambient Direct. *Softly* artwork by Sara Mugnes. 'Genuine Oak' flooring in Whitehaven, Hurford's. **STAIRS** Rendered walls in Dulux Natural White, Idea Creations. **ENSUITE** Walls and vanity face in microcement in Craie and Ivoire, Idea Creations. Vanity, East2East Joinery. Benchtop in London White marble, CDK Stone. Tapware, Astra Walker. Botticino marble crazy paving, Aeria Country Floors. **BALCONY** Limestone floor tiles, Barefoot Living. Sika Design lounge chair and stool, Domo. Thonet armchair, Anibou.



THE PALETTE

Dulux Natural White
(interior walls)

Dulux White Exchange Quarter
(exterior render)

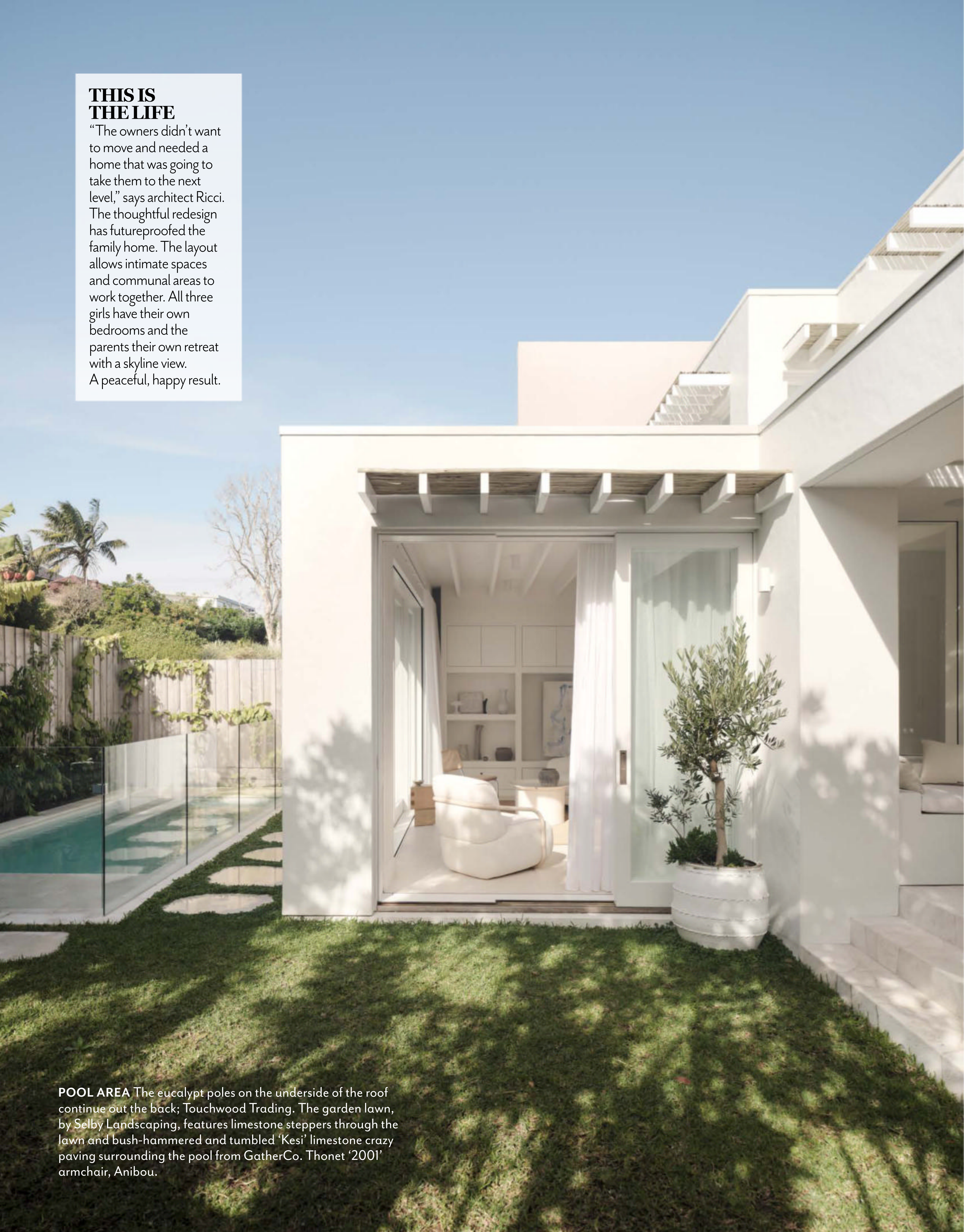
> “The most important thing was to create comfort with a restrained palette of tones and textures.”
>
> JEMMA BRENDER, INTERIOR DESIGNER

Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.

BEDROOM Blinds, Fybre Furnishings. Bench cushion in Zepel outdoor linen. Linen cushions and throw, Montmartre Store. Bedside lamp, Suzie Anderson Home. Vintage stool, 506070. Bed linen, Cultiver. **POWDER ROOM** Vanity in microcement by Idea Creations, made by East2East Joinery. Mirror, Studio Gardner. Blinds, Fybre Furnishings. Vintage stool, Eastwing Studio. Sconce, Casa Palmina. Tapware, Astra Walker. Botticino crazy paving, Aeria Country Floors.

THIS IS THE LIFE

"The owners didn't want to move and needed a home that was going to take them to the next level," says architect Ricci. The thoughtful redesign has futureproofed the family home. The layout allows intimate spaces and communal areas to work together. All three girls have their own bedrooms and the parents their own retreat with a skyline view. A peaceful, happy result.



POOL AREA The eucalypt poles on the underside of the roof continue out the back; Touchwood Trading. The garden lawn, by Selby Landscaping, features limestone steppers through the lawn and bush-hammered and tumbled 'Kesi' limestone crazy paving surrounding the pool from GatherCo. Thonet '2001' armchair, Anibou.

THE SOURCE

Design classics meet Mediterranean minimalism in a relaxed fusion of furniture and homewares.

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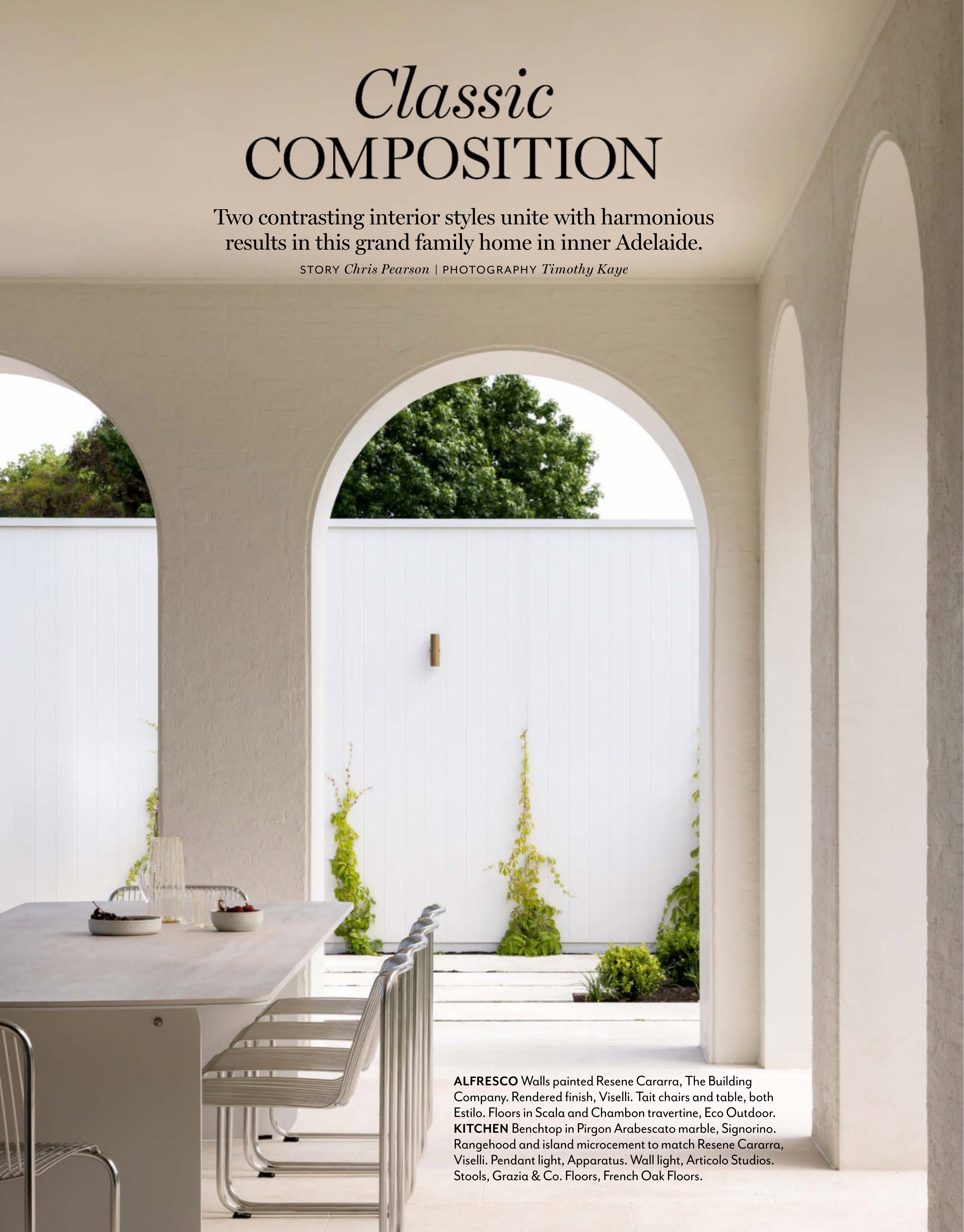
1 'Kallista' **table lamp**, $329, Freedom. **2** Lipped porcelain **planter** in Celadon, $190, Orient House. **3** Perrin & Rowe 'Io' two-hole **bench-mounted sink mixer** with round spout and metal lever taps in Gold, $1735, The English Tapware Company. **4** *Unrendered Room - Blue Pine Billabong* **artwork** by Steven Harvey, POA, Liverpool St Gallery. **5** 'Sequoia' **rug** (300x240cm), $2400, Armadillo. **6** 'Samba' woven **pendant light** in Natural, $349, Beacon Lighting. **7** B&B Italia 'Le Bambole' **sofa**, POA, Space. **8** *Deposits of millions* **sculpture** by Tom Butterworth, Hake House. **9** 'Dovetail' **coffee table**, $1900, Rachel Donath. **10** 'Wavee' fabric occasional **armchair**, $889, Freedom. **H&G**

Produced by Marissa Foye and Bethan Lacoba.



Classic COMPOSITION

Two contrasting interior styles unite with harmonious results in this grand family home in inner Adelaide.

STORY *Chris Pearson* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Timothy Kaye*

ALFRESCO Walls painted Resene Cararra, The Building Company. Rendered finish, Viselli. Tait chairs and table, both Estilo. Floors in Scala and Chambon travertine, Eco Outdoor. **KITCHEN** Benchtop in Pirgon Arabescato marble, Signorino. Rangehood and island microcement to match Resene Cararra, Viselli. Pendant light, Apparatus. Wall light, Articolo Studios. Stools, Grazia & Co. Floors, French Oak Floors.

The owners of this luminous white home in inner Adelaide have very different tastes. One likes all things classical and ornate, the other favours crisp and streamlined. But designers Georgie Shepherd and Lauren Main have deftly married the differing styles to create a harmonious whole. “I have always been drawn to heritage-style properties and my husband loves modern, minimalist aesthetics,” says the owner. What they share, though, is a love of white.

When the couple bought the property in 2018 for their growing family, now two children, 10 and six, it was occupied by a brick bungalow in a sorry state of disrepair. The only option was to bring in the bulldozer and start again with this design by Proske architects.

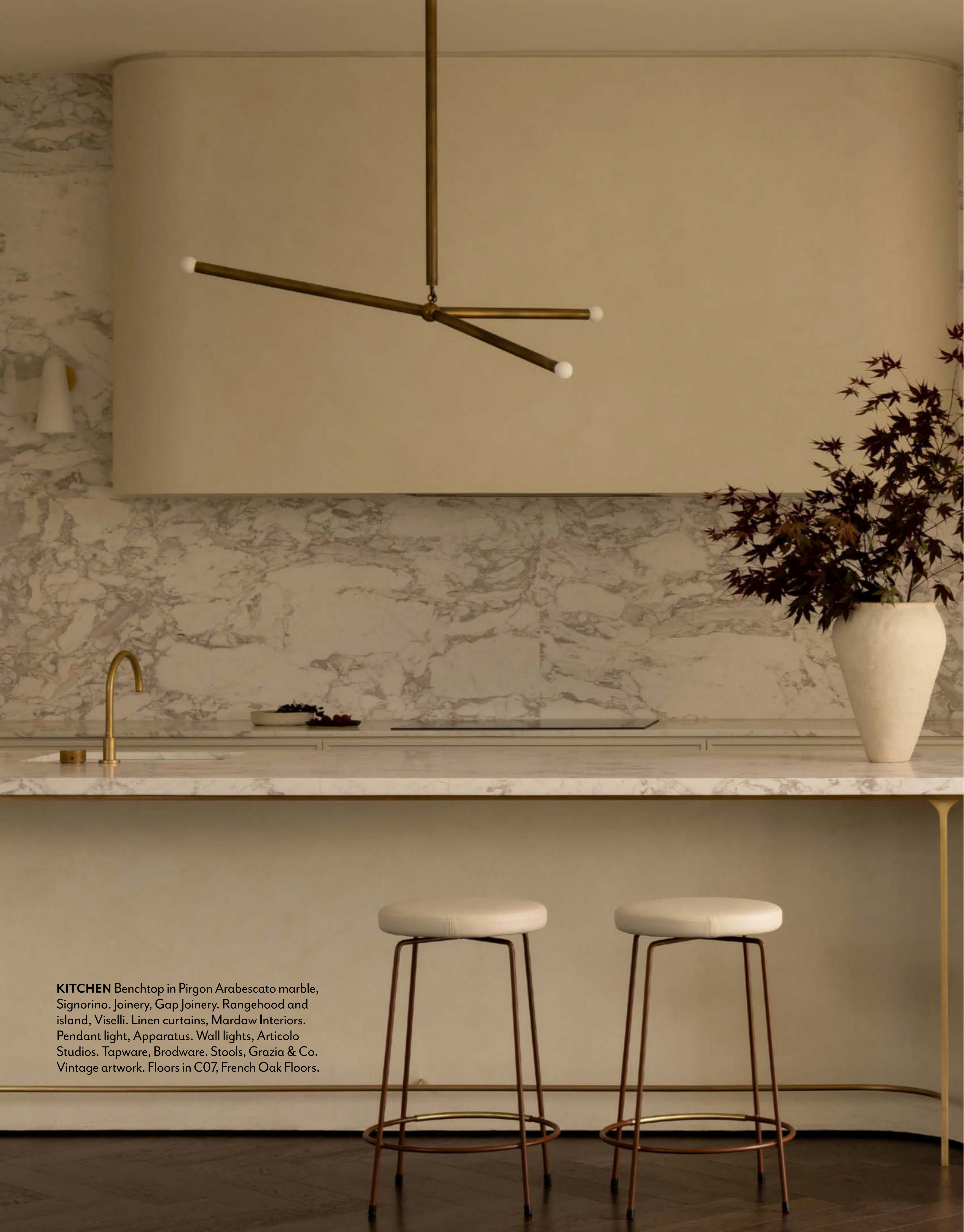
“We wanted a home that heritage-style homes are renowned for: a corridor down the middle with rooms off each side,” says the owner. “It was important to have a large open living area for extended family to celebrate birthdays and milestones, with an outdoor kitchen to continue family traditions of cooking pizza and bread.” Also on the wishlist was a breakout space for the kids.

Blending their two aesthetics, the couple sought a modern take on classic style. They presented Georgie with a plethora of Pinterest images of heritage Parisian-style apartments with “modern, luxury fitouts, beautiful furniture, elaborate cornicing, timber floors and marble elements,” says the owner. “We also found an image ▶

KITCHEN Benchtop and splashback in Pirgon Arabescato marble, Signorino. Herringbone floors in C07, French Oak Floors. **BUTLER’S PANTRY** Joinery in American oak veneer, Gap Joinery. Benchtop in Zenith Surfaces White Truffle, Stone Ambassador. ‘Elysian’ mixer, ABI Interiors. Curtains, Mardaw Interiors. Artwork by Greg Wood. Stool, Grazia&Co. Vessels, Ferm Living, Jam and New Works.

“The sculptural forms of the furniture complement the period features.”

GEORGIE SHEPHERD, INTERIOR DESIGNER



KITCHEN Benchtop in Pirgon Arabescato marble, Signorino. Joinery, Gap Joinery. Rangehood and island, Viselli. Linen curtains, Mardaw Interiors. Pendant light, Apparatus. Wall lights, Articolo Studios. Tapware, Brodware. Stools, Grazia & Co. Vintage artwork. Floors in C07, French Oak Floors.

THIS IS THE LIFE

"We spend most of our time in the open living area," says the owner. "We enjoy mornings in the kitchen, eating breakfast at the bench chatting about what our day will look like and then again after school, preparing dinner and with our daughter sitting at the bench doing homework. The curtains add comfort and (when open) frame each doorway looking out to the backyard."

of a gallery with tall, arched windows. Large arched doors across the living area were must-haves."

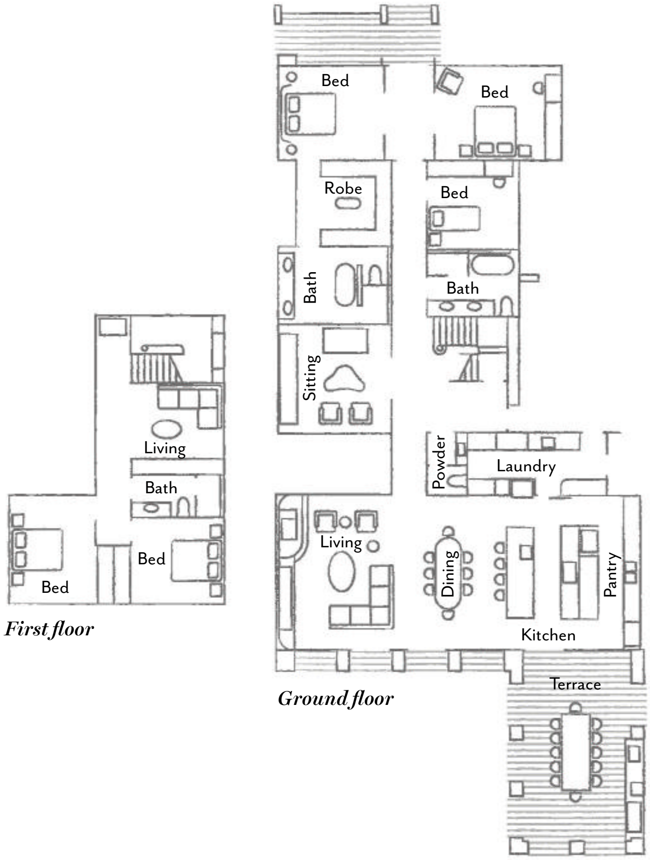
As the house is in a heritage area, council insisted its street frontage reflect its neighbours. Hence the facade with its deep verandah and solid masonry, together with sash windows. The back, however, is a different proposition, where sweeping arches with a classical European bent enclose a bank of steel-framed doors.

Within the original footprint sit three bedrooms, including the main, and a sitting room. Then a light-soaked open plan, with living, dining and kitchen, leads to a covered entertaining area abutting a pool. Meanwhile, upstairs are two more bedrooms, a sitting area and a second family bathroom.

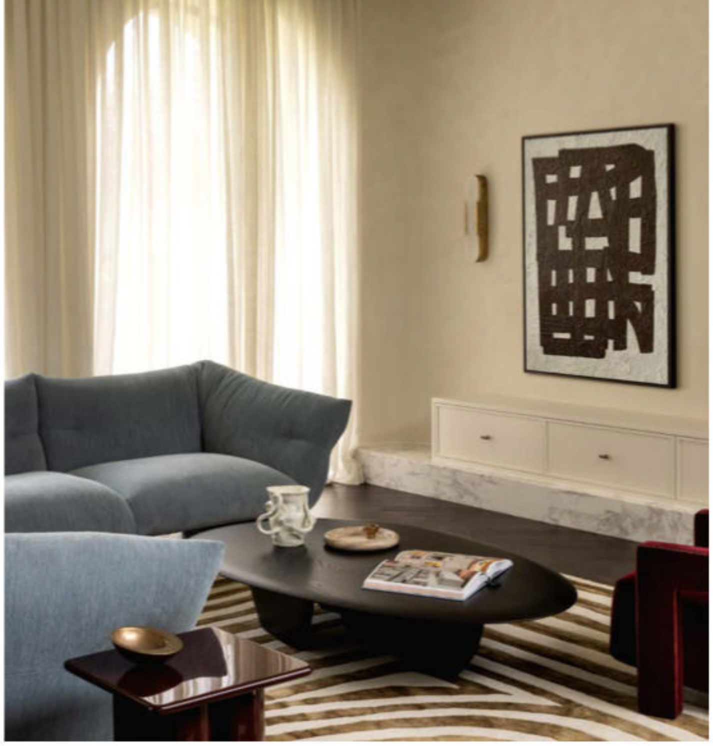
Reflecting the owners' diverse preferences, the traditional mingles with the contemporary. High skirtings, cornices, panelling and dark herringbone timber flooring complement fine-profile joinery and lashings of marble. Sweeping curves are combined with exquisite detailing, such as bevel-edged joinery and brass edging to the floors.

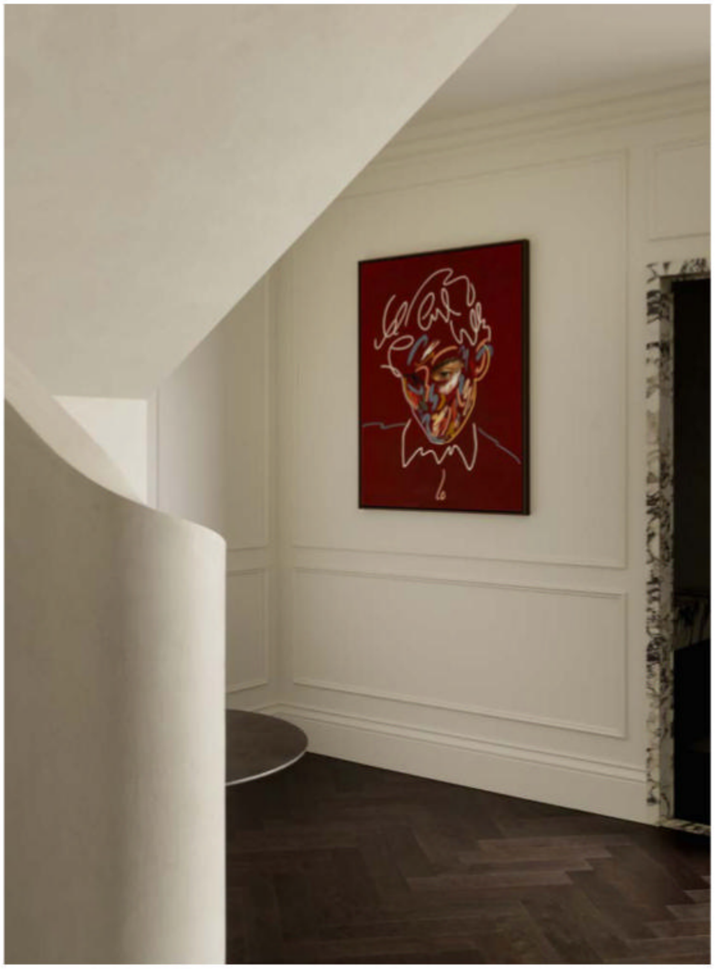
"White marble and Venetian plaster walls create a calm yet sophisticated living space, connected by arched doorways to the garden," says Georgie. "Combining the owners' personalities, these elements create drama." ▶

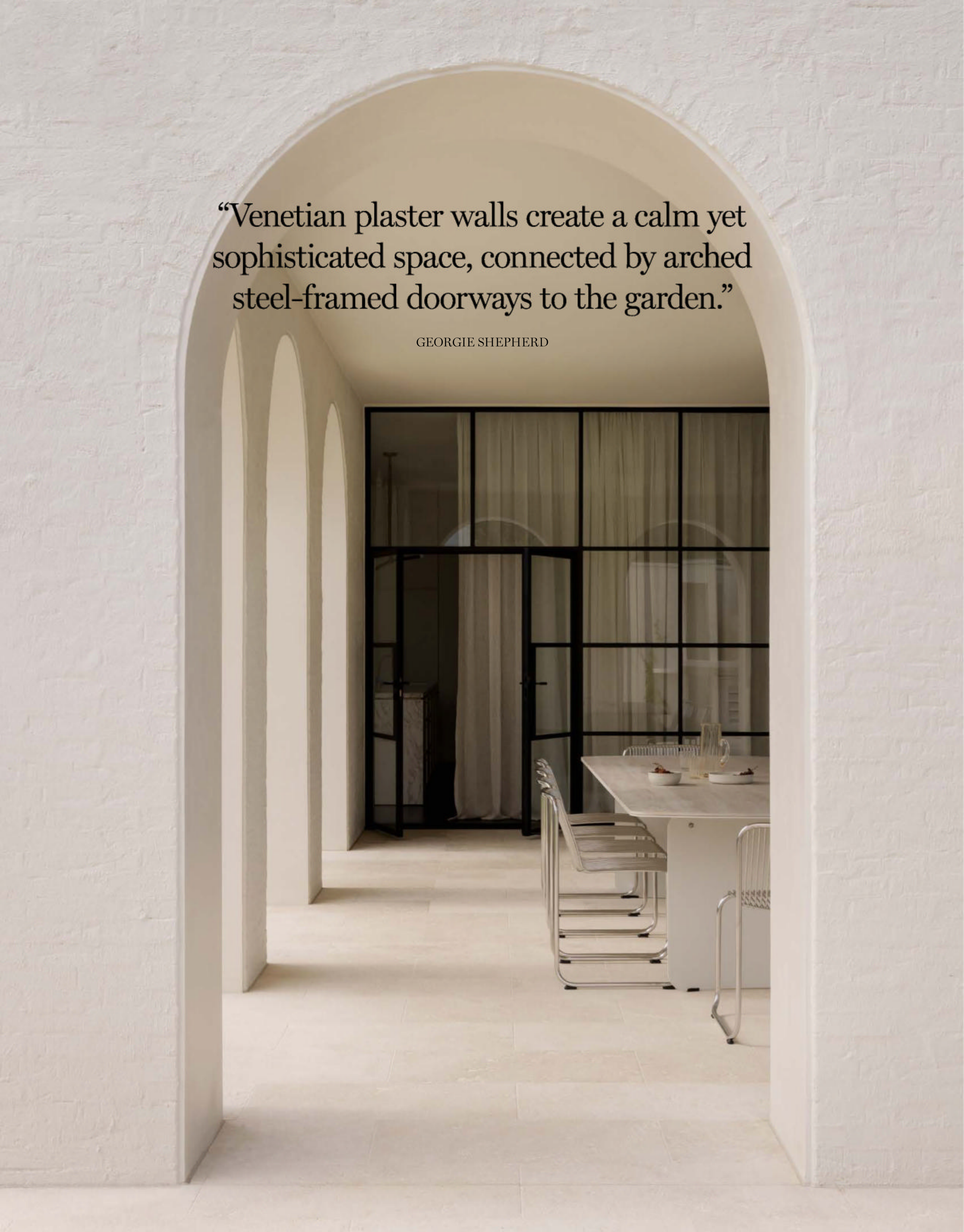
THE LAYOUT


Bed
Bed
Robe
Bed
Bath
Bath
Sitting
Living
Bath
Bed
Bed
First floor
Powder
Laundry
Living
Dining
Pantry
Kitchen
Terrace
Ground floor

LIVING Walls in microcement, Viselli. Wall light, The Montauk Lighting Co. Artwork by James Brown. Coffee table, Made Studio. Cassina armchairs and sofas, Mobilia. Side table, Domo. Rug, Tigmi Trading. *Opposite* Fireplace in Pirgon Arabescato, Signorino. Fireplace, Cheminées Philippe. Marble side table, Barbera. **DINING** Table, Barbera. Cassina chairs, Mobilia. Doors, Adelaide Steel Frame Windows. **LANDING** Artwork by Loribelle Spirovski. Door trim in Calacatta Viola marble, Signorino.

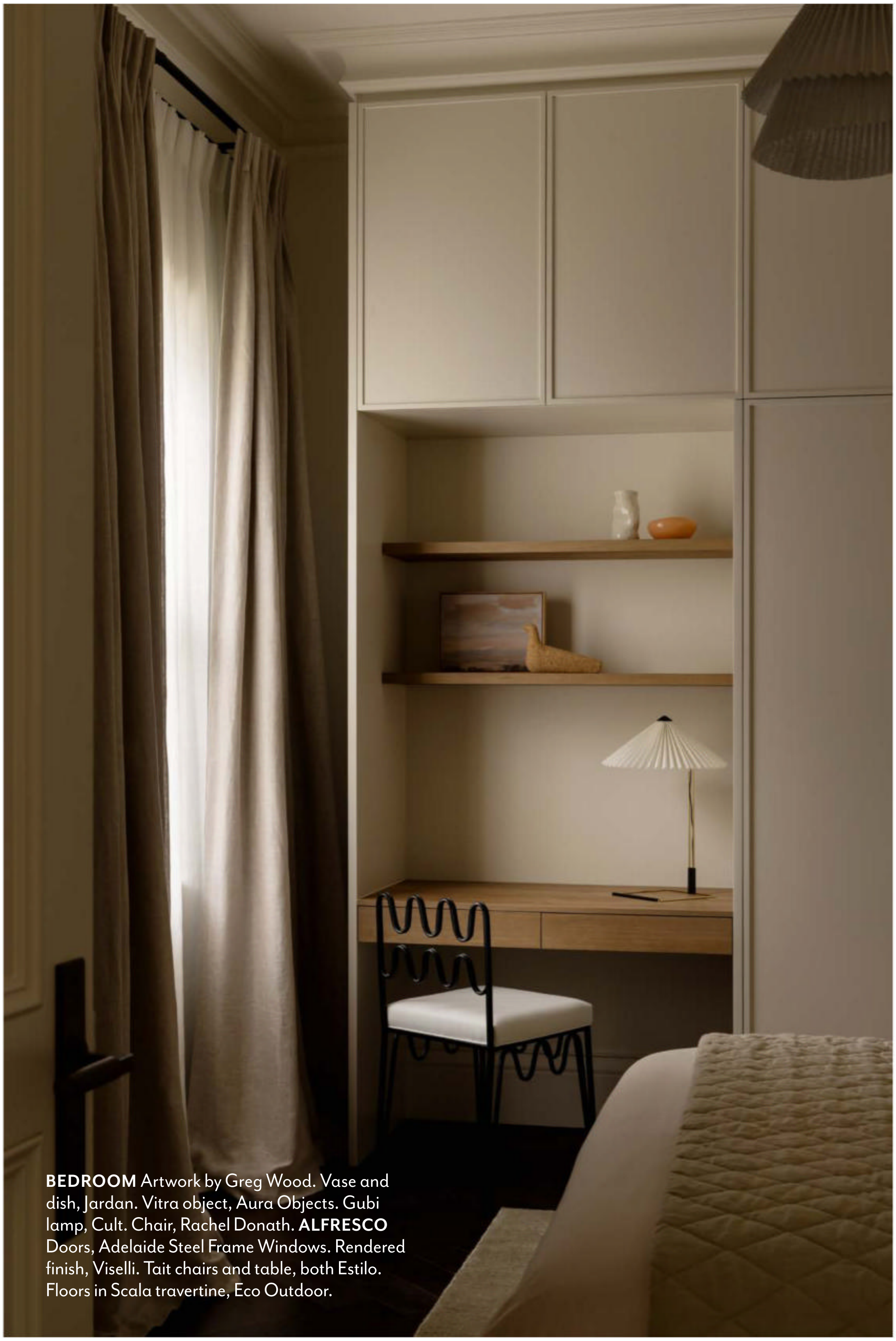






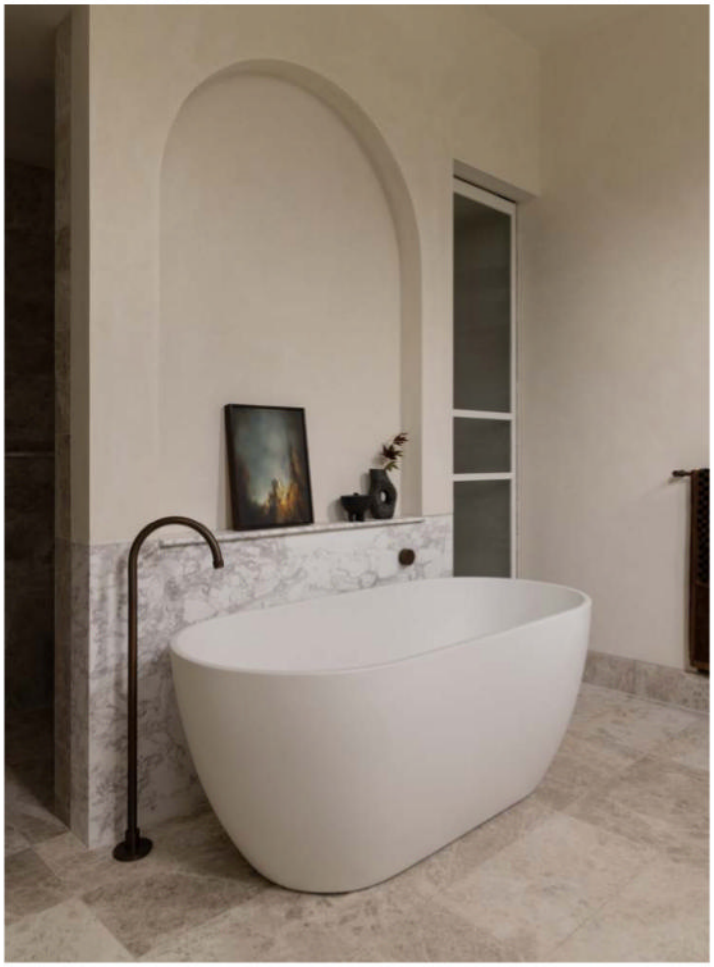
“Venetian plaster walls create a calm yet sophisticated space, connected by arched steel-framed doorways to the garden.”

GEORGIE SHEPHERD



BEDROOM Artwork by Greg Wood. Vase and dish, Jardan. Vitra object, Aura Objects. Gubi lamp, Cult. Chair, Rachel Donath. **ALFRESCO** Doors, Adelaide Steel Frame Windows. Rendered finish, Viselli. Tait chairs and table, both Estilo. Floors in Scala travertine, Eco Outdoor.

STAIRCASE Step in Calacatta Viola marble, Signorino. Door, Adelaide Steel Frame Windows. Floors, French Oak Floors. **POWDER ROOM** Walls in Porter's Paints French wash. Mirror, Gap Joinery. Calacatta Viola basin, Uniq Stone. Tapware, Brodware. Sconce, Criteria. **EXTERIOR** Render, Viselli. Chambon pavers, Eco Outdoor. **ENSUITE** Wall and floor in Silver Pearl limestone, Eco Tile Factory. Splashback in Pirgon Arabescato marble, Signorino. Bath, Arcisan. Tapware, Brodware. Artwork by Andrew Carr.



But the house still remains child-friendly at every turn. "The interplay between the home's grand modern architectural proportions and softness, tactility and comfort form a compelling contrast, (while also) providing a sense of balance."

The furnishings and finishes – including hand-crafted timber joinery, hand-trowelled plaster and contemporary artworks – celebrate Australian artisans and makers. Pieces sourced locally include a cast-bronze dining table and a side table by Barbera Design, and a stairway table by Scotty Bemelen, both Melbourne-based furniture makers. They are teamed with Italian classics such as the stunning Cassina 'Mon-Cloud' sofa, 'Utrecht' armchairs and 'Cab' dining chairs.

These myriad elements mingle to create a house that, even though it is a new build, feels like it has been here much longer. And both the owners, despite their divergent tastes, feel totally at home. "We love mornings in the lounge room, when the sun comes through the large windows," says the owner. "We open up all the arched doors and sit on the velvet chairs with a coffee, listening to the birds." What a grounding way to start the day. ▶

Georgie Shepherd: *georgieshepherd.com.au.*
Proske: *proske.com.au.* ***The Building Company:*** *thebuildingcompany.net.*

THE PALETTE

Resene Cararra
(walls and joinery)

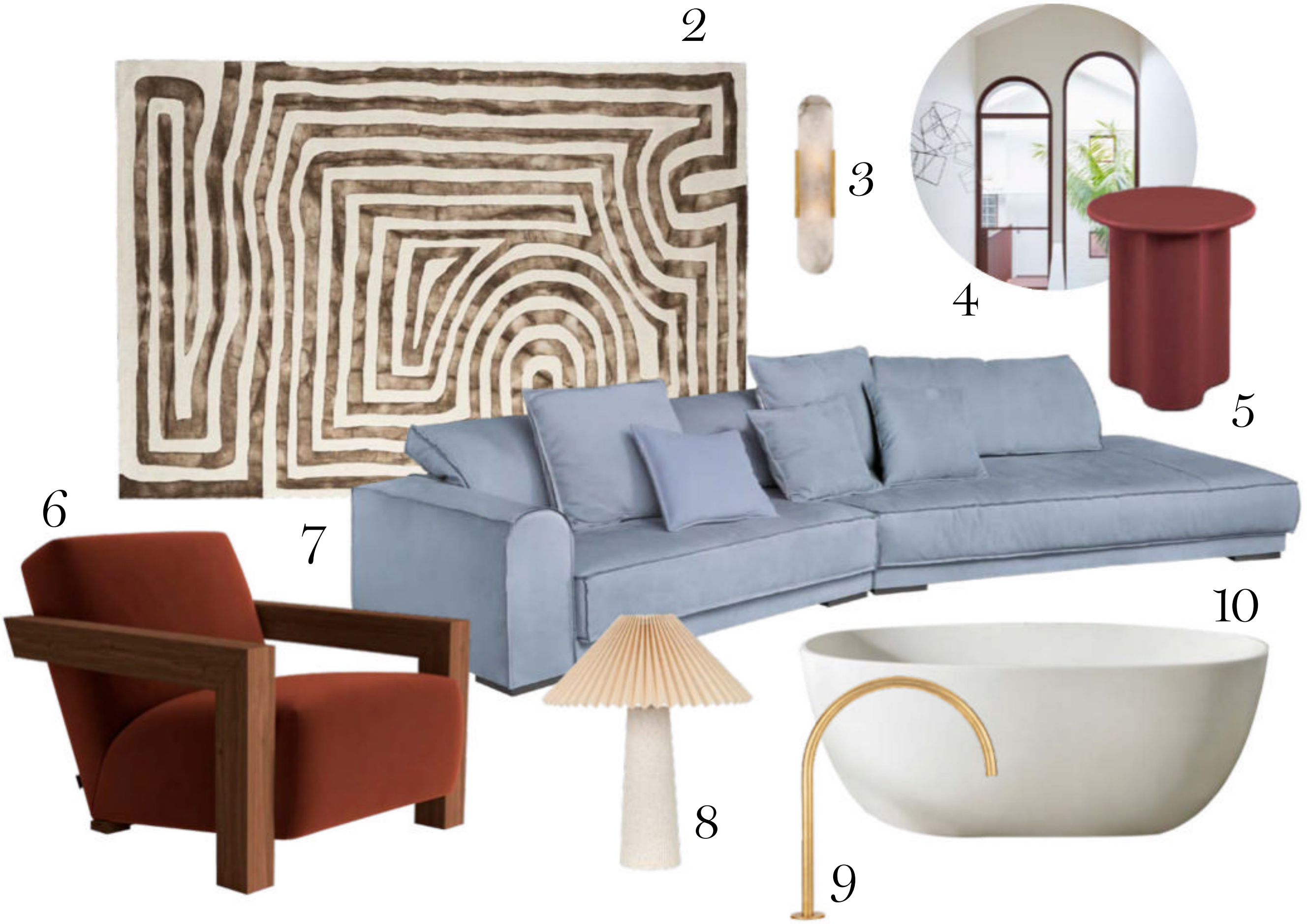
Porter's Paints French wash
in Soapstone with Bone base

BEDROOM Walls painted Resene Cararra. Iver 'Brunswick' door handles in Signature Brass, Bankston. Pinch 'Anders' pendant, Winnings. Curtains in Design of the Times 'Abalo' linen, Mardaw Interiors. B&B Italia 'Husk' bed, Space. 'Flocca' pillowcase in Argent, Hale Mercantile Co. 'Collide' bedcover in Cinnabar/Flax, Cultiver. 'Austere 'wall light, Great Dane. Side table, Jardan. Vase by Jess Sellinger.

Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.

THE SOURCE

Infuse interiors with a sophisticated warmth via metallic finishes, luxe velvet and timeless silhouettes.



1 Pinch 'Anders' **pendant light**, from $3590, Winnings. **2** Dusty Deco 'Psychedelic Labyrinth' **rug** in Beige Dip Dye, $3400, Tigmi Trading. **3** Kelly Wearstler 'Melange' elongated **sconce**, $1340, The Montauk Lighting Co. **4** Custom **arched steel doors**, POA, Steel Window Design. **5** GlobeWest 'Artie Wave' **side table** in Merlot, $1120, Life Interiors. **6** 'Breu' **occasional chair** in Avignon Nut velvet, $2395, Coco Republic. **7** Baxter 'Budapest' **sofa**, POA, Space. **8** 'Lora' **table lamp** in Natural, $129, Beacon Lighting. **9** Thin bench-mounted **spout** in Aged Brass, $209.90, ABI Interiors. **10** Studio 1 'Plunge' solid surface **freestanding bath** (1500mm), $3099, Harvey Norman. **H&G**

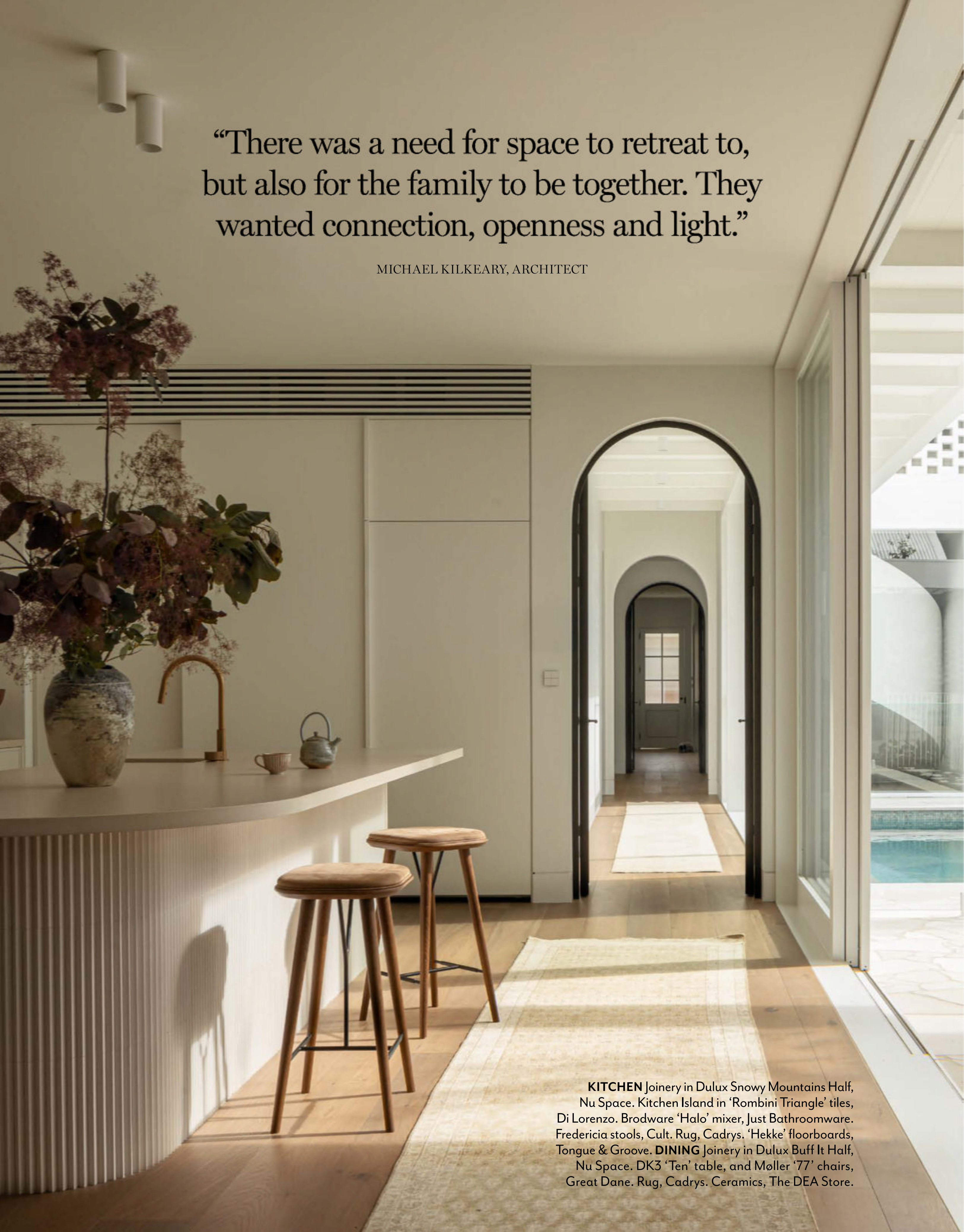
Produced by Bethan Lacoba and Marissa Foye.

SOARING TO *new heights*

A family with three teenage boys needed space to grow in their Sydney bungalow.

STORY *Chris Pearson* | STYLING *Atelier Room on Fire*
PHOTOGRAPHY *Felix Mooneeram*

EXTERIOR Weatherboards painted Dulux Snowy Mountains Half, Design Pine. Door painted Dulux Clay Pipe. 'Bayview' plantation shutters, CW Systems. Sokeria Egyptian limestone pavers, Artisan Exterior.



> “There was a need for space to retreat to, but also for the family to be together. They wanted connection, openness and light.”

MICHAEL KILKEARY, ARCHITECT

KITCHEN Joinery in Dulux Snowy Mountains Half, Nu Space. Kitchen Island in ‘Rombini Triangle’ tiles, Di Lorenzo. Brodware ‘Halo’ mixer, Just Bathroomware. Fredericia stools, Cult. Rug, Cadrys. ‘Hekke’ floorboards, Tongue & Groove. **DINING** Joinery in Dulux Buff It Half, Nu Space. DK3 ‘Ten’ table, and Møller ‘77’ chairs, Great Dane. Rug, Cadrys. Ceramics, The DEA Store.

THIS IS THE LIFE

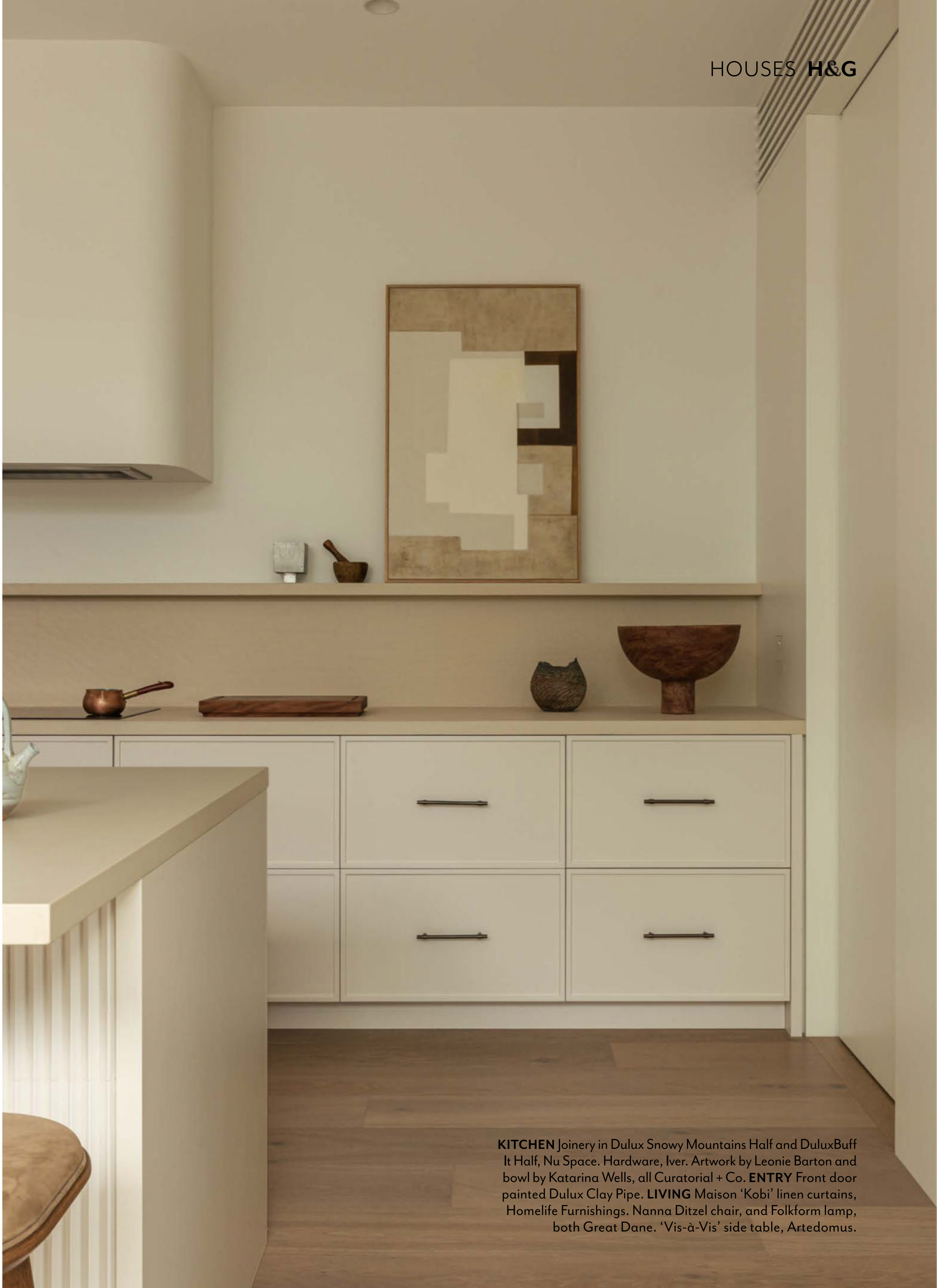
"I love to cook, so I spend lots of time in the kitchen," says the owner. "The boys enjoy meals at the bench and I can chat to them about their day while I cook." For her husband? "He uses the pool most days. He loves to swim and then dry off in the sun. He absolutely loves the outdoor space. We entertain most weekends and enjoy cooking on the barbecue and playing lawn games," she says.

Coming home is always an occasion for the lucky owners of this home on Sydney's Lower North Shore. From the front, it's a familiar two-storey bungalow, but inside it's anything but. A traditional hallway ushers them towards a revelation – a sweeping spiral staircase, the backbone of the house, which leads to a luminous courtyard and on to a living room with a soaring cathedral ceiling, bathed in soft light. "It's all so beautiful – that staircase is quite the centrepiece," says the owner.

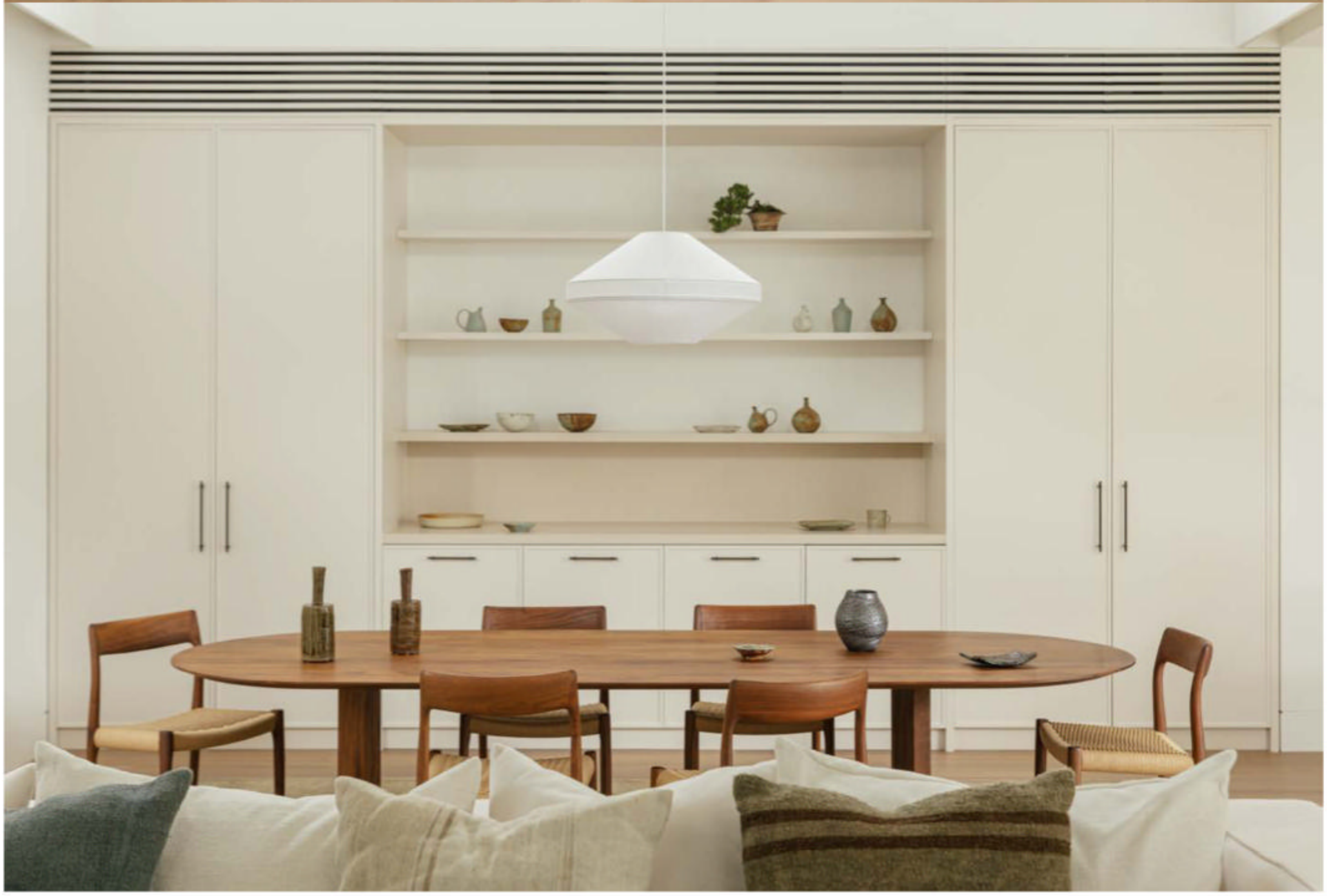
But in 2012, when the couple bought the home for their growing family, now with three teenage boys, it was earthbound and far from elevated. Painted green and yellow, it had an awkward rear addition and was plagued by asbestos.

The couple, who had long dreamed of owning a bungalow, were unperturbed. "We initially updated it a bit to make it more comfortable for a young family," says the owner. "We restored it and rebuilt the rear. But it was always our intention to do a full rebuild, so in 2021, we bit the bullet." The most glaring faults? "The house was too small, so we were tripping over each other. Our outdoor space wasn't usable, the main bedroom had no ensuite, storage was minimal and we wanted a pool."

Central to the brief to architect Michael Kilkeary of Cadence & Co was two storeys, "so the boys could use the upstairs as their own space – to keep their mess out of the way and give them privacy," he says. "There was a need for space to escape and retreat to, but also for somewhere for the family to be together. They wanted connection, openness and light." "A butler's pantry was also on my list," adds the owner. "I love cooking and I wanted a smart kitchen with lots of storage that could double as a great place to entertain." And, connected to the kitchen, a large laundry/mudroom. Respect for the home's Federation past and the clean lines of Mid-century modernism were both overriding themes. ▶



KITCHEN Joinery in Dulux Snowy Mountains Half and DuluxBuff It Half, Nu Space. Hardware, Iver. Artwork by Leonie Barton and bowl by Katarina Wells, all Curatorial + Co. **ENTRY** Front door painted Dulux Clay Pipe. **LIVING** Maison 'Kobi' linen curtains, Homelife Furnishings. Nanna Ditzel chair, and Folkform lamp, both Great Dane. 'Vis-à-Vis' side table, Artedomus.

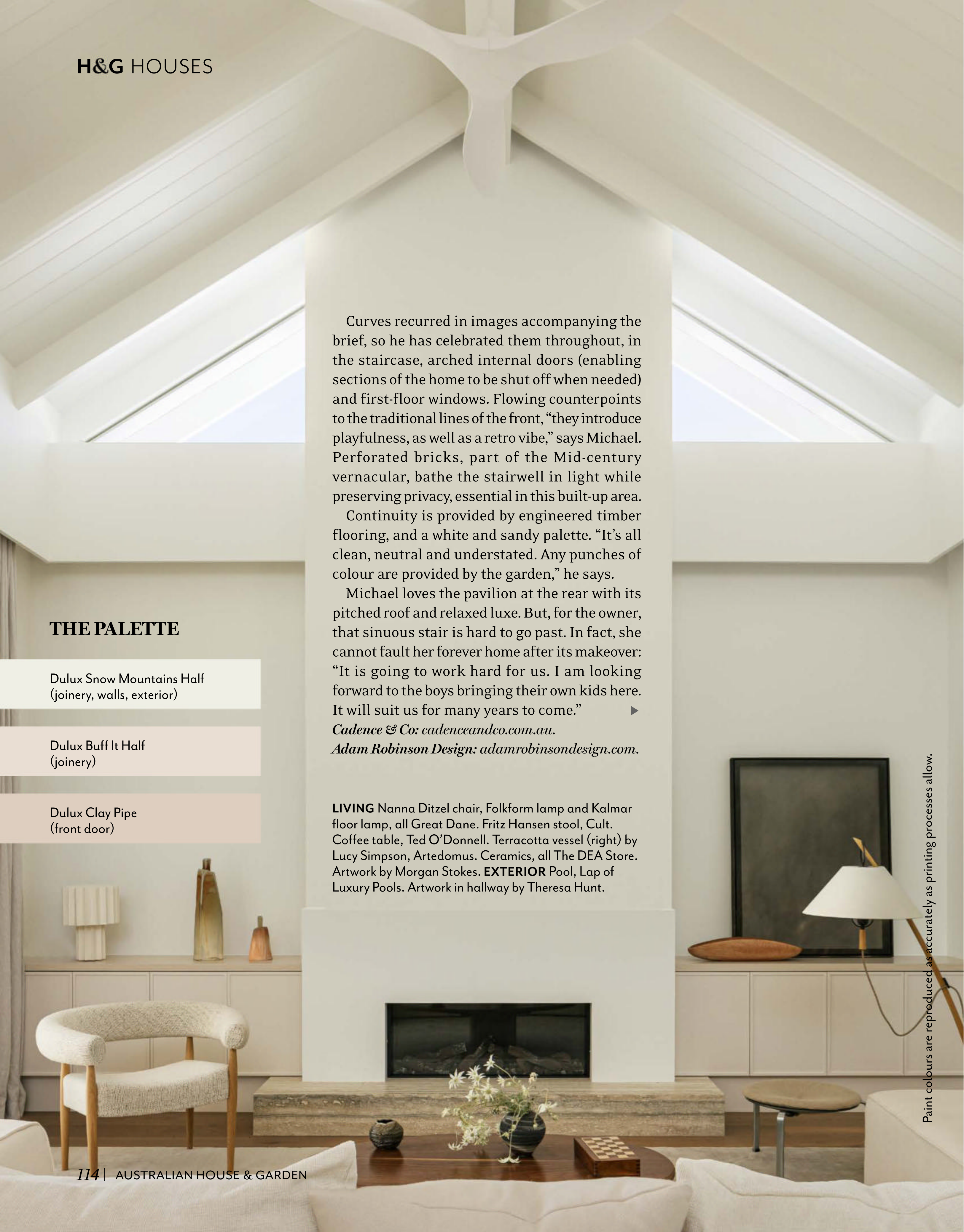


To the front Michael added a gabled top storey clad in stucco and timber battens, reflecting the existing vernacular. "It spoke to the original language," he says. This includes three bedrooms for the boys, with their own sitting room.

Meanwhile, he reconfigured the original bungalow with the main bedroom suite to the right of the entry, and a study and guest room to the left. But then any nod to a Federation bungalow breathtakingly evaporates with the staircase, then the kitchen leading to the living with the pitched ceiling beyond, all wrapped with a courtyard by landscape designer Adam Robinson.

"The spiral stair is an unexpected piece of sculpture, creating impact," says Michael. "Adding to that, sightlines flow from the front door through to the back. Walls of glazing dissolve the barrier between inside and out," he says. ▶

HALLWAY Umbrella stand c/o Chris Connell, Artedomus. Rugs, both Cadrys. **KITCHEN** Joinery, Nu Space. Kitchen Island tiles, Di Lorenzo. Mixer, Brodware. Stools, Cult. Large artwork by Leonie Barton. Large vase, small artworks and teapot by Suvira McDonald. **DINING** Pendant light, Coco Flip. DK3 table, Møller chairs, all Great Dane. Ceramics on shelves, The DEA Store.



Curves recurred in images accompanying the brief, so he has celebrated them throughout, in the staircase, arched internal doors (enabling sections of the home to be shut off when needed) and first-floor windows. Flowing counterpoints to the traditional lines of the front, “they introduce playfulness, as well as a retro vibe,” says Michael. Perforated bricks, part of the Mid-century vernacular, bathe the stairwell in light while preserving privacy, essential in this built-up area.

Continuity is provided by engineered timber flooring, and a white and sandy palette. “It’s all clean, neutral and understated. Any punches of colour are provided by the garden,” he says.

Michael loves the pavilion at the rear with its pitched roof and relaxed luxe. But, for the owner, that sinuous stair is hard to go past. In fact, she cannot fault her forever home after its makeover: “It is going to work hard for us. I am looking forward to the boys bringing their own kids here. It will suit us for many years to come.” ▶

***Cadence & Co:** cadenceandco.com.au.*
***Adam Robinson Design:** adamrobinsondesign.com.*

THE PALETTE

Dulux Snow Mountains Half
(joinery, walls, exterior)

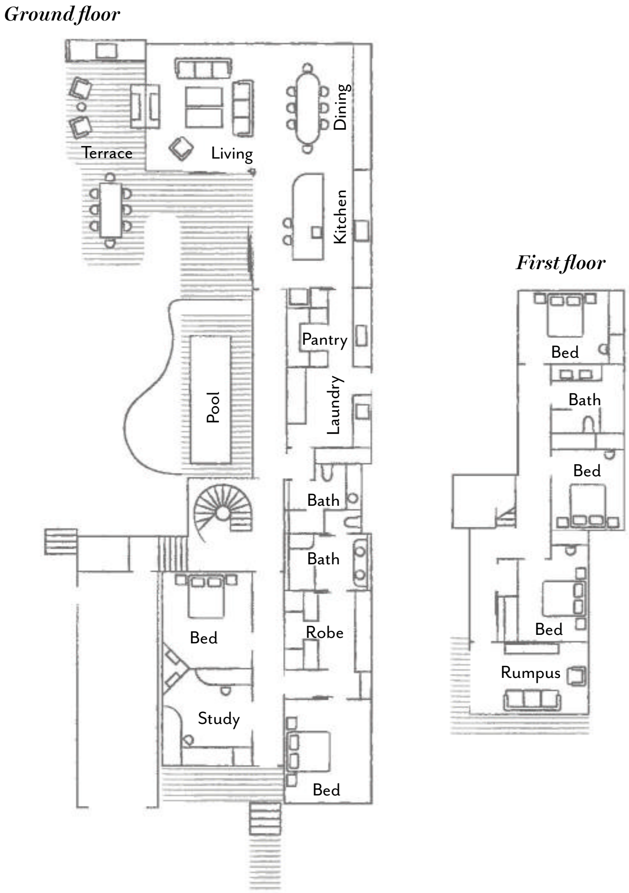
Dulux Buff It Half
(joinery)

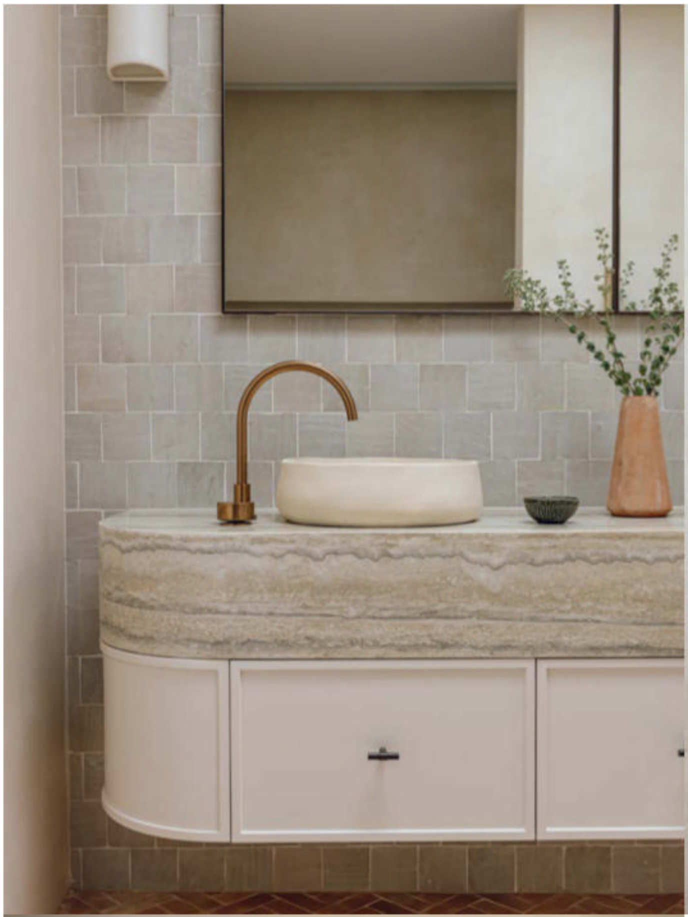
Dulux Clay Pipe
(front door)

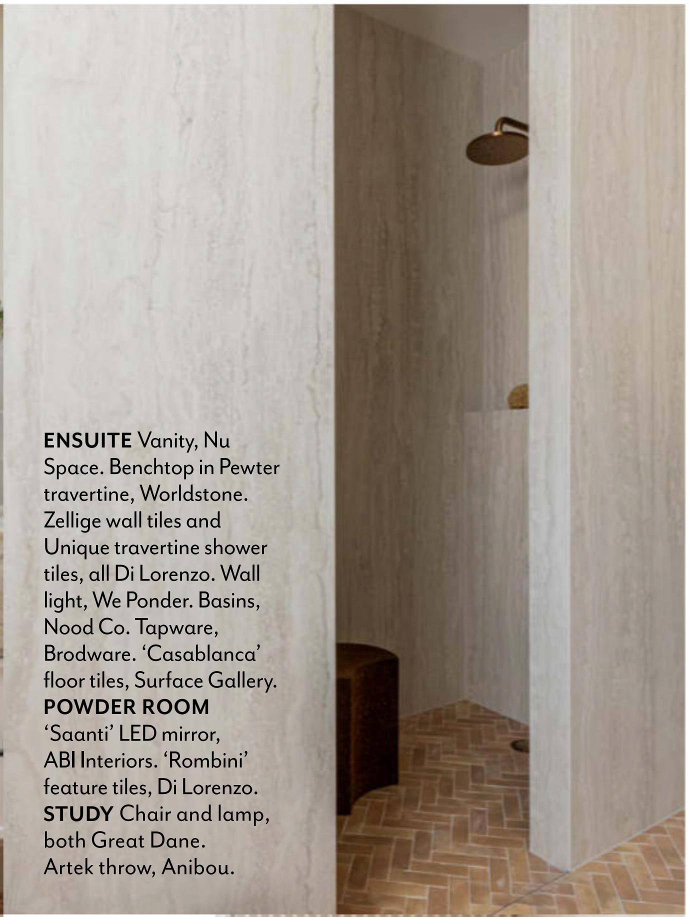
Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.

LIVING Nanna Ditzel chair, Folkform lamp and Kalmar floor lamp, all Great Dane. Fritz Hansen stool, Cult. Coffee table, Ted O’Donnell. Terracotta vessel (right) by Lucy Simpson, Artedomus. Ceramics, all The DEA Store. Artwork by Morgan Stokes. **EXTERIOR** Pool, Lap of Luxury Pools. Artwork in hallway by Theresa Hunt.

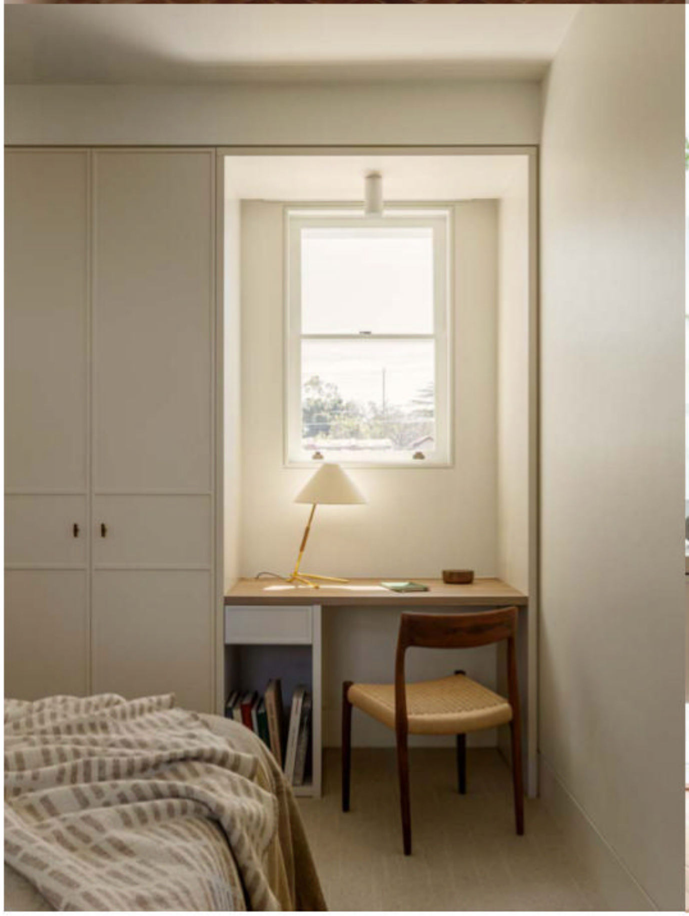
THE LAYOUT

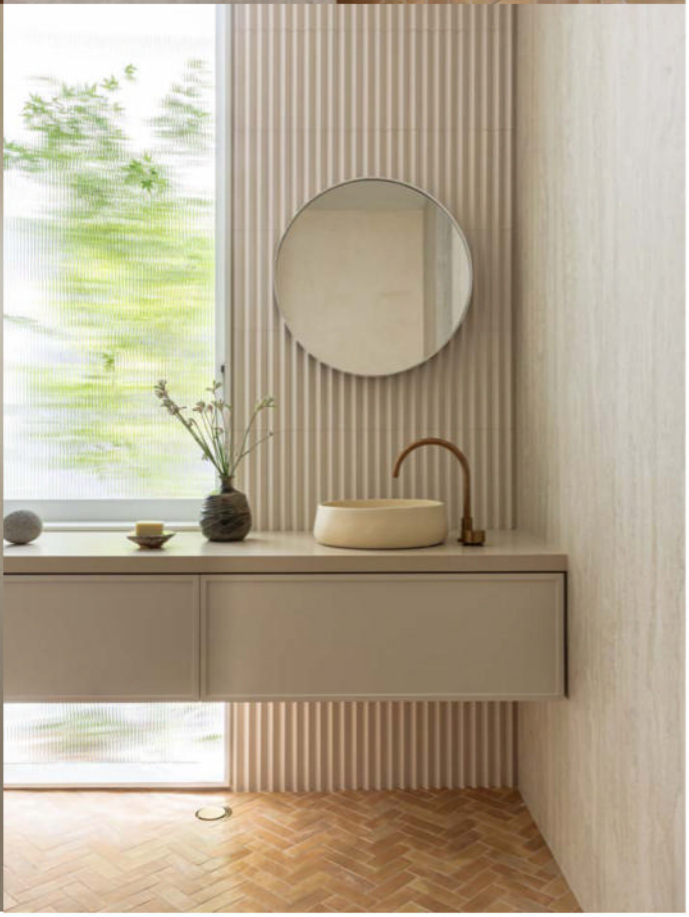

Ground floor
Terrace
Living
Dining
Kitchen
Pantry
Laundry
Pool
Bath
Bath
Robe
Bed
Study
Bed
First floor
Bed
Bath
Bed
Bed
Rumpus





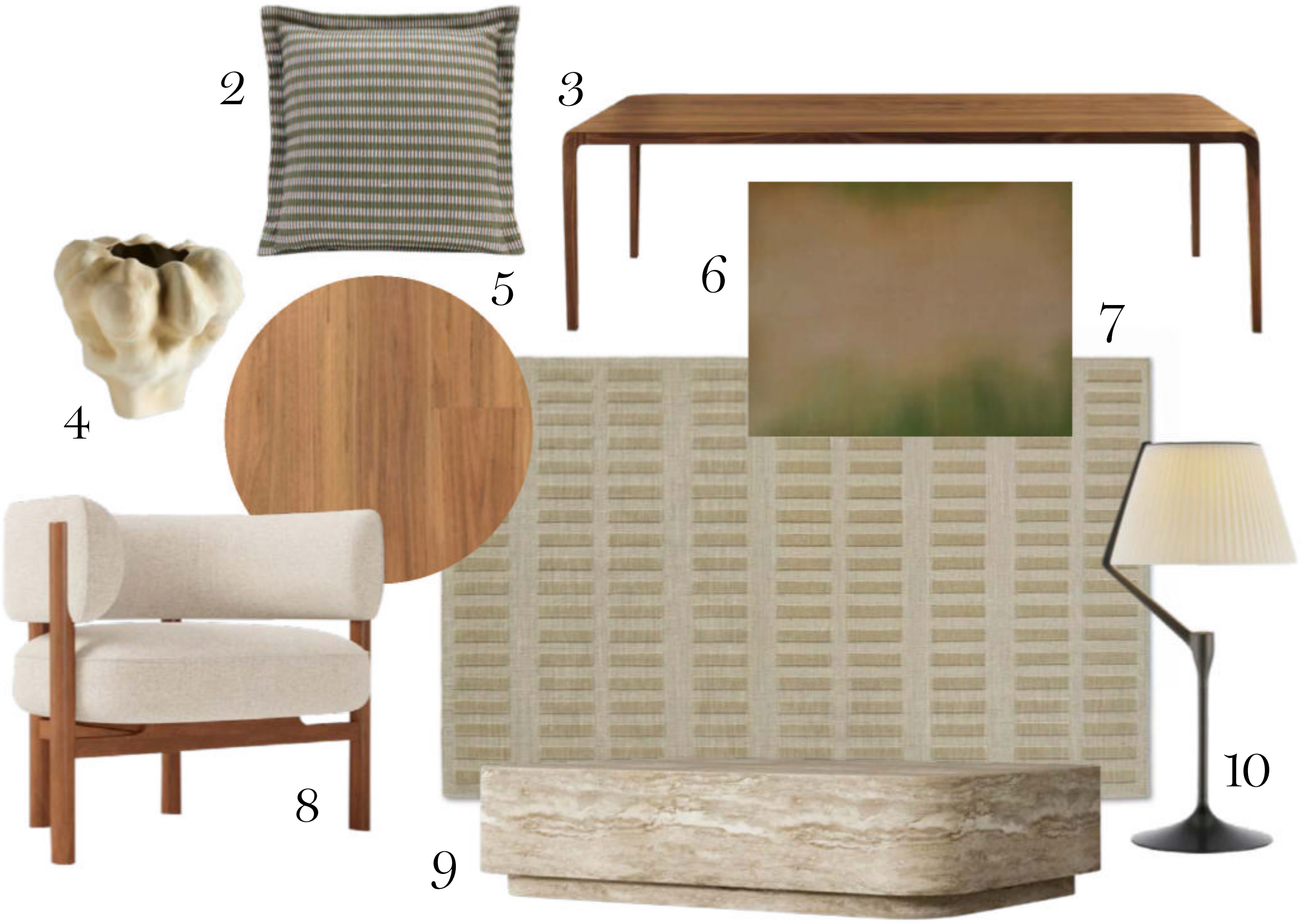
ENSUITE Vanity, Nu Space. Benchtop in Pewter travertine, Worldstone. Zellige wall tiles and Unique travertine shower tiles, all Di Lorenzo. Wall light, We Ponder. Basins, Nood Co. Tapware, Brodware. 'Casablanca' floor tiles, Surface Gallery. **POWDER ROOM** 'Saanti' LED mirror, ABI Interiors. 'Rombini' feature tiles, Di Lorenzo. **STUDY** Chair and lamp, both Great Dane. Artek throw, Anibou.





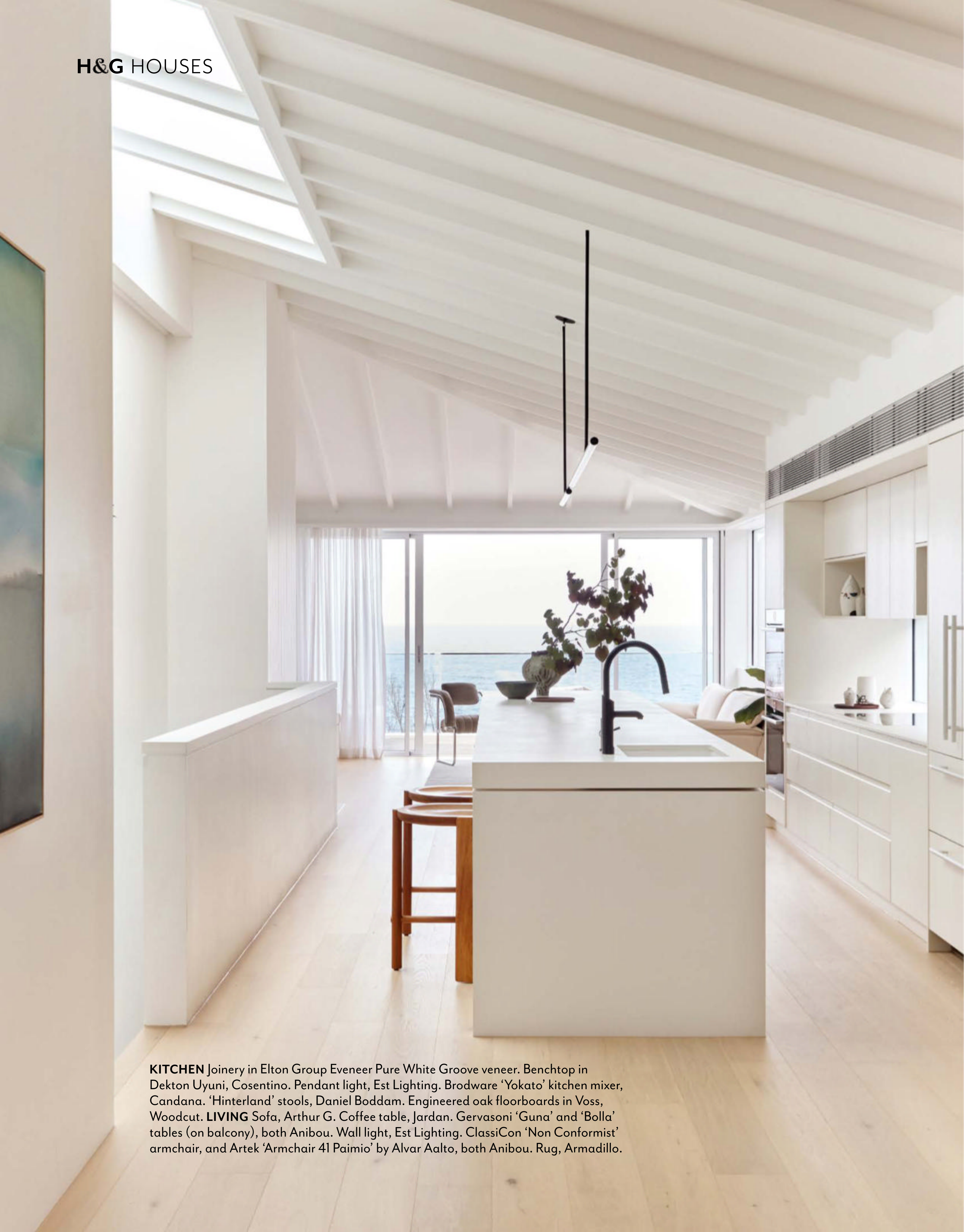
THE SOURCE

Mid-century and contemporary elements work well together united with subtle patterns and a grounded palette.



1 Aerin 'Delmara' large **cachepot**, $1235, Palmer&Penn. **2** 'Sadie' **outdoor cushion** in Everdawn Vista, $195, King Living. **3** 'Sleek' **dining table**, POA, Fanuli. **4** L'Objet 'Timna' **vase** in Latte Porcelain, $1495/short, Becker Minty. **5** Plantino 'Natures Trail' Brushed Wide Board **timber flooring** in Blackbutt, POA, Choices Flooring. **6** *Unknown Realms To Luring* **artwork** by Indivi Sutton, POA, Sainte Cloche. **7** 'Claudia' area **rug** in Taupe (244x153cm), $499, Castlery. **8** 'Craig' expressed wood **chair**, $799, West Elm. **9** 'Palazzo' rectangle **coffee table**, $3800, Casa Blanco. **10** Kartell 'Angelo' stone **table lamp** in Titanium, $2245, Space. **H&G**

Produced by Marissa Foye.

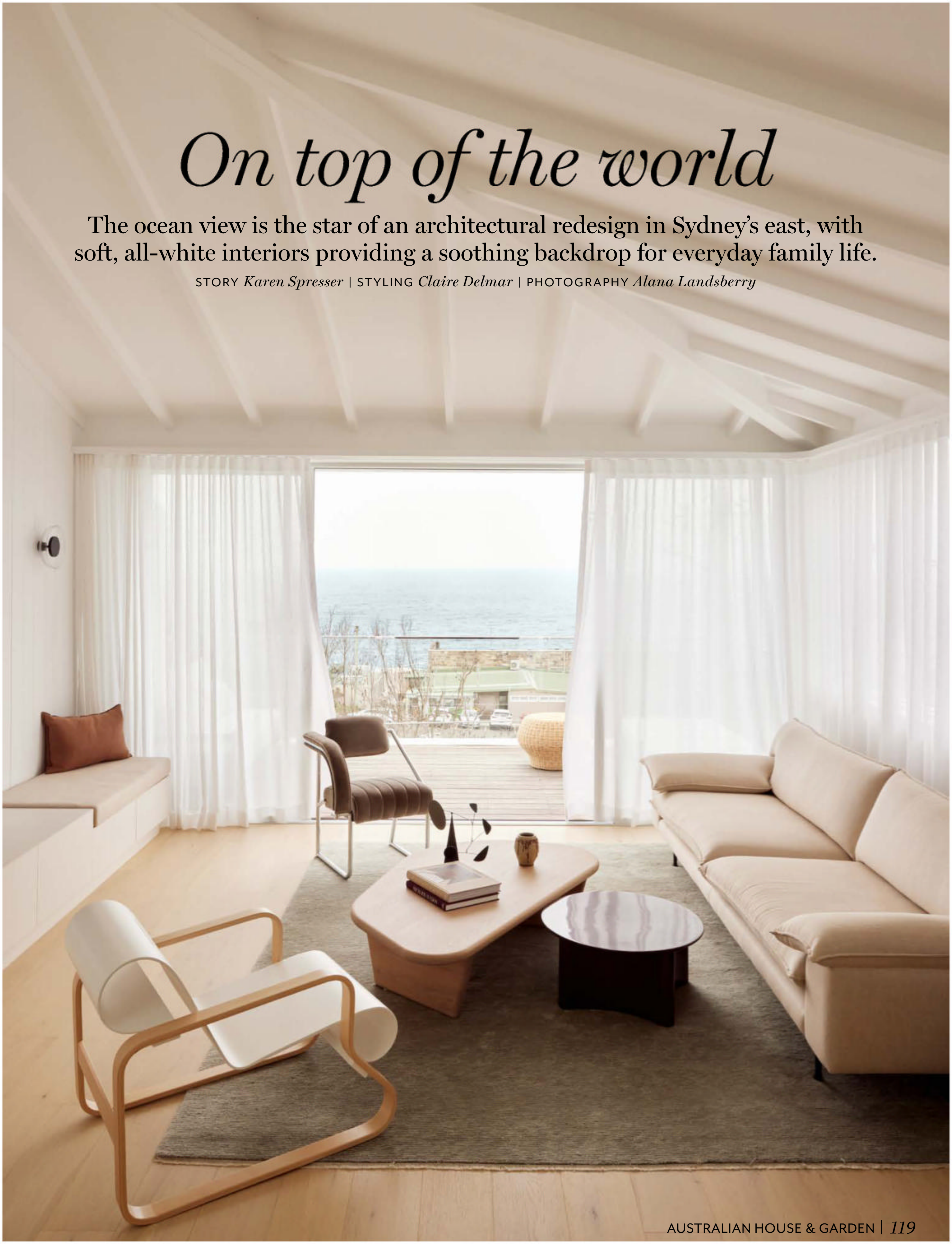


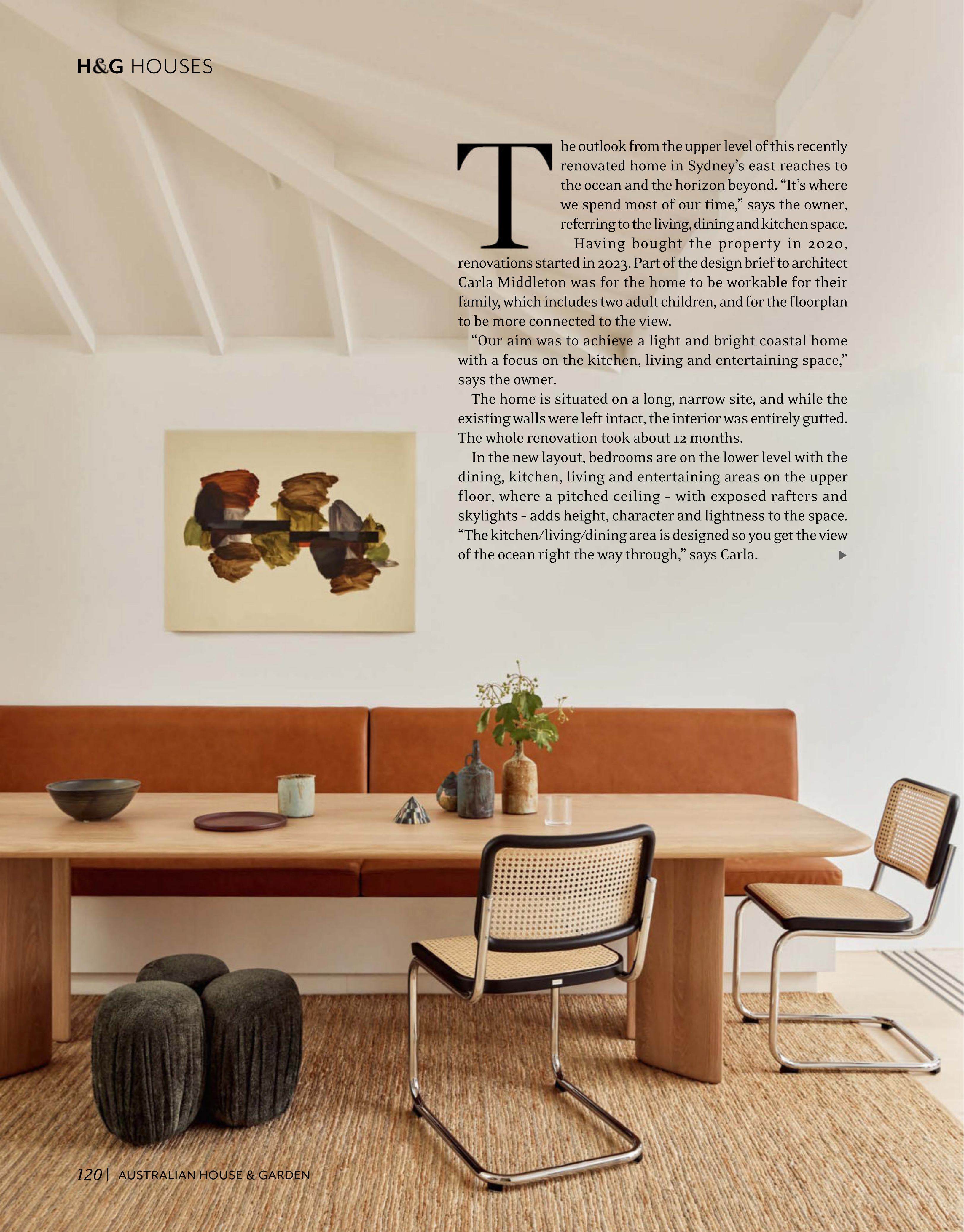
KITCHEN Joinery in Elton Group Eveneer Pure White Groove veneer. Benchtop in Dekton Uyuni, Cosentino. Pendant light, Est Lighting. Brodware 'Yokato' kitchen mixer, Candana. 'Hinterland' stools, Daniel Boddam. Engineered oak floorboards in Voss, Woodcut. **LIVING** Sofa, Arthur G. Coffee table, Jardan. Gervasoni 'Guna' and 'Bolla' tables (on balcony), both Anibou. Wall light, Est Lighting. ClassiCon 'Non Conformist' armchair, and Artek 'Armchair 41 Paimio' by Alvar Aalto, both Anibou. Rug, Armadillo.

On top of the world

The ocean view is the star of an architectural redesign in Sydney's east, with soft, all-white interiors providing a soothing backdrop for everyday family life.

STORY *Karen Spresser* | STYLING *Claire Delmar* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Alana Landsberry*





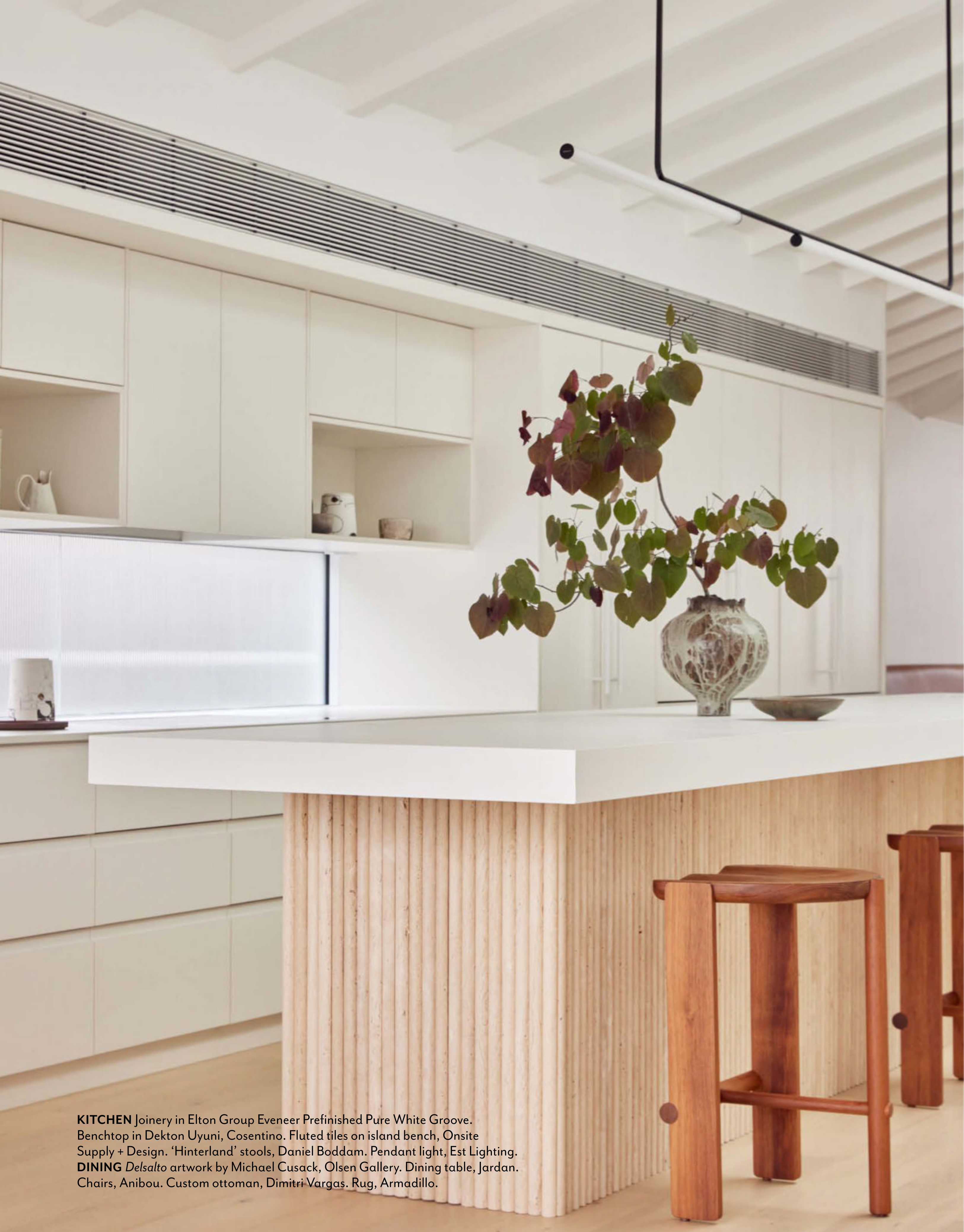
The outlook from the upper level of this recently renovated home in Sydney's east reaches to the ocean and the horizon beyond. "It's where we spend most of our time," says the owner, referring to the living, dining and kitchen space.

Having bought the property in 2020, renovations started in 2023. Part of the design brief to architect Carla Middleton was for the home to be workable for their family, which includes two adult children, and for the floorplan to be more connected to the view.

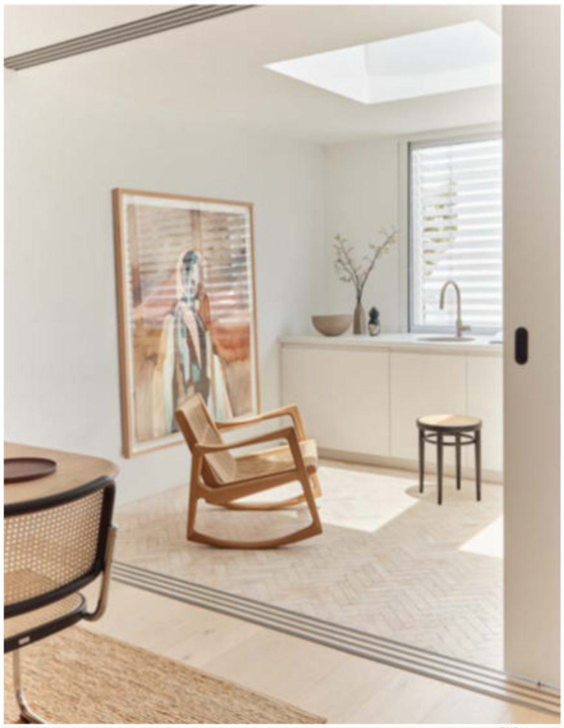
"Our aim was to achieve a light and bright coastal home with a focus on the kitchen, living and entertaining space," says the owner.

The home is situated on a long, narrow site, and while the existing walls were left intact, the interior was entirely gutted. The whole renovation took about 12 months.

In the new layout, bedrooms are on the lower level with the dining, kitchen, living and entertaining areas on the upper floor, where a pitched ceiling – with exposed rafters and skylights – adds height, character and lightness to the space. "The kitchen/living/dining area is designed so you get the view of the ocean right the way through," says Carla. ▶



KITCHEN Joinery in Elton Group Eveneer Prefinished Pure White Groove. Benchtop in Dekton Uyuni, Cosentino. Fluted tiles on island bench, Onsite Supply + Design. 'Hinterland' stools, Daniel Boddam. Pendant light, Est Lighting. **DINING** *Delsalto* artwork by Michael Cusack, Olsen Gallery. Dining table, Jardan. Chairs, Anibou. Custom ottoman, Dimitri Vargas. Rug, Armadillo.



ENTERTAINING *Top left In The Aftermath* artwork by Isabelle De Kleine, Curatorial+Co. ClassiCon 'Euvira' rocking chair, Anibou. Thonet stool, Anibou. Brodware 'Yokato' mixer, Candana. Line series ceramics by Tania Rollond. Patterned ceramic by Tania Rollond. **LIVING** Wall Light, Est Lighting. *Ellipsis* artwork by Michael Cusack, Olsen Gallery. Maison de Vacances linen cushion, Montmartre Store. **KITCHEN** Joinery in Elton Group Eveneer Prefinished Pure White. Patterned ceramic and cup by Tania Rollond. HDR vessel by John Born, Curatorial+Co. Jug by Nobue Ibaraki, The DEA Store. **DINING** Dining table, Jardan. **BALCONY** Chair, Coco Republic. Glassware, Bisonhome. ClassiCon armchair, Anibou.

THIS IS THE LIFE

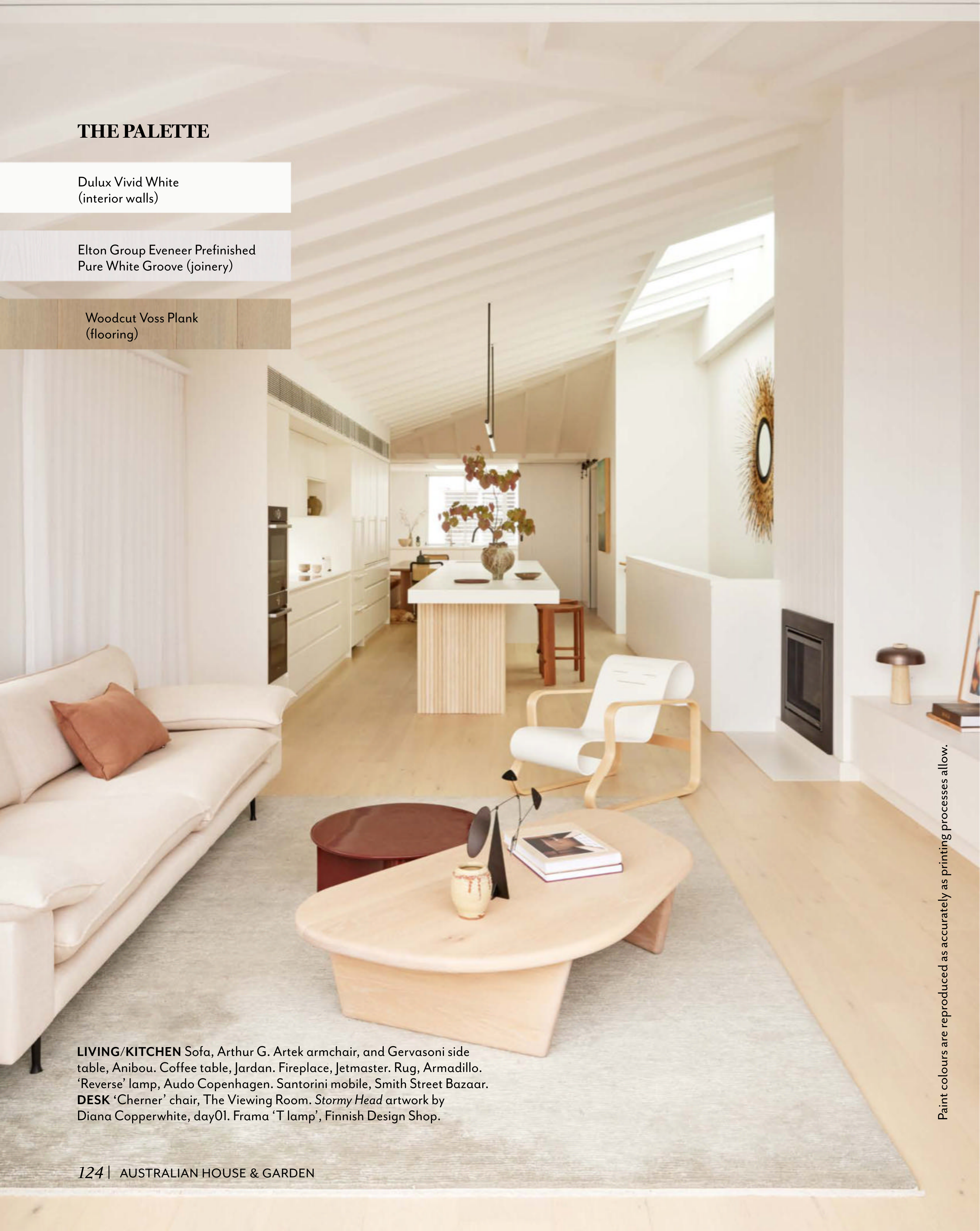
"Our favourite part of the home is the upper level, where the kitchen, living, dining and indoor barbecue area revolve around the stunning views. It's where we spend most of our time," says the owner. "The raked ceilings make the space feel so much more open and airy, and the five-metre-long kitchen bench is an absolute dream – both beautiful and incredibly functional."

THE PALETTE

Dulux Vivid White
(interior walls)

Elton Group Eveneer Prefinished
Pure White Groove (joinery)

Woodcut Voss Plank
(flooring)



LIVING/KITCHEN Sofa, Arthur G. Artek armchair, and Gervasoni side table, Anibou. Coffee table, Jardan. Fireplace, Jetmaster. Rug, Armadillo. 'Reverse' lamp, Audo Copenhagen. Santorini mobile, Smith Street Bazaar. **DESK** 'Cherner' chair, The Viewing Room. *Stormy Head* artwork by Diana Copperwhite, day01. Frama 'T lamp', Finnish Design Shop.

Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.

"I pushed everything to the side boundaries. Through the centre of the site, there are no walls so you can see and be connected to the horizon and those ocean views from the back."

Downstairs, the entry was relocated to be more centred, and the main bedroom, with walk-in wardrobe and ensuite, was moved forward. A laundry was designed to make the most of the space under the stairs. Outside there is also a courtyard, with crazy paving, greenery and a fire pit.

With its coastal location, materials needed to be hard-wearing. "It can be such a harsh environment. Everything rusts – even parts of their fridge would rust – so we used lots of stainless steel, lots of really hard-wearing materials," says Carla.

Every inch of the house was thoughtfully considered, and maximised storage was an important part of the plans. "One of the client's bugbears is clutter. She didn't want clutter so every item in the house has a place to be put away," she adds.

With the interiors, Carla brought in materials in a lighter palette, layering texture, warmth and softness to spaces. The kitchen, with its all-white joinery and durable Dekton benchtops, features a generous island with fluted travertine tiles and plentiful storage.

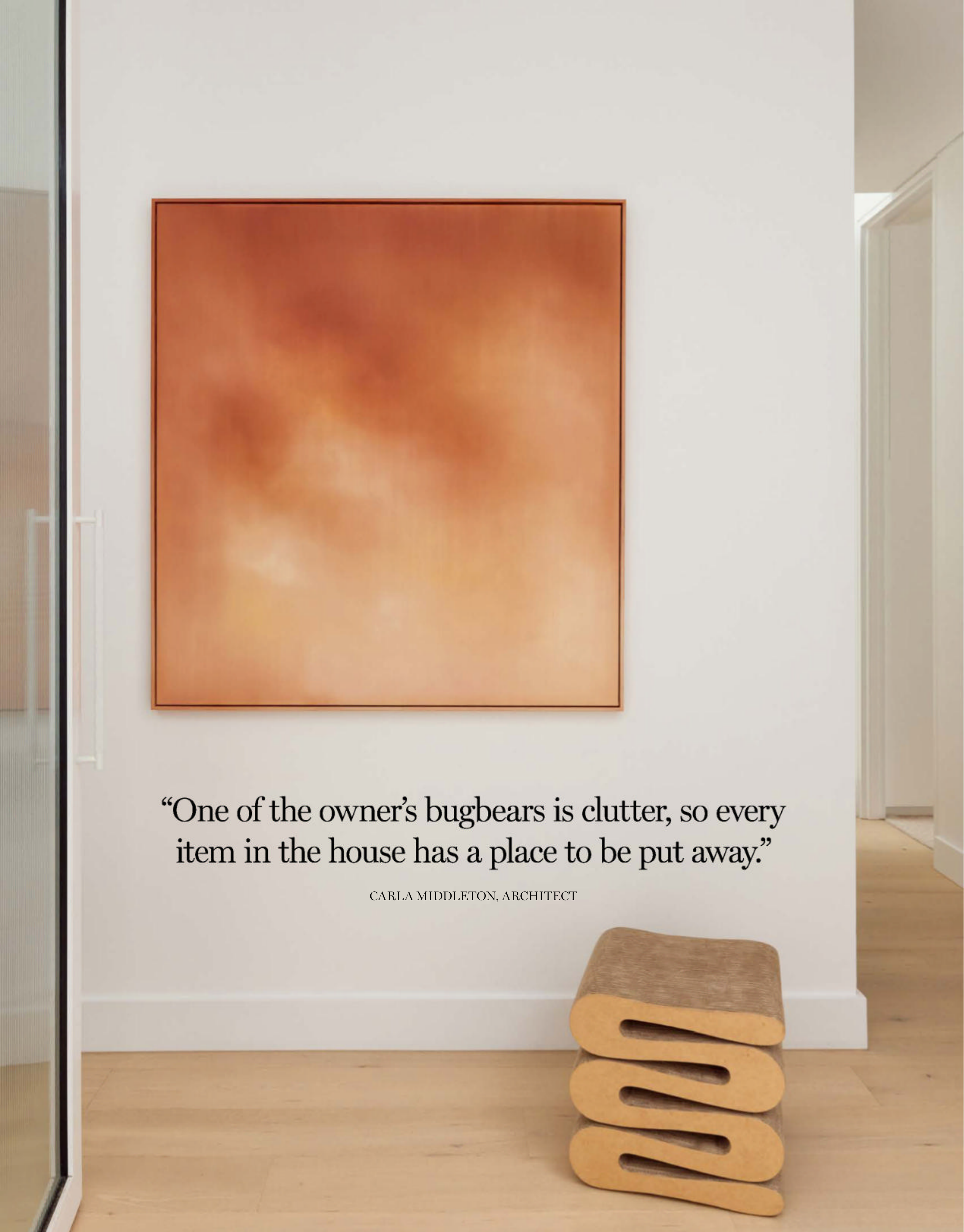
White walls and a soft neutral colour palette throughout provide the perfect frame for the standout view. In the dining area, an upholstered banquette adds sleek built-in seating. In the living space an integrated Jetmaster fireplace sits to one side, while furnishings in sandy hues add to the coastal aesthetic.

An indoor entertaining area, complete with built-in barbecue and a pizza oven, is a family favourite. "The owners are big entertainers and love having dinner parties," says Carla. "The house is right on the coastline and being able to stand out on the (front) balcony and cook can be weather dependent, so we pushed the entertaining space to the rear." The space includes openable skylights and large windows, and can be screened off from the rest of the floor. There is also a study for one of the homeowners, cleverly tucked away.

The family moved back into the finished home in mid-2024 and says the new layout has changed the way they live there. "We have two adult children still living at home, and the layout has made a big difference," says the owner.

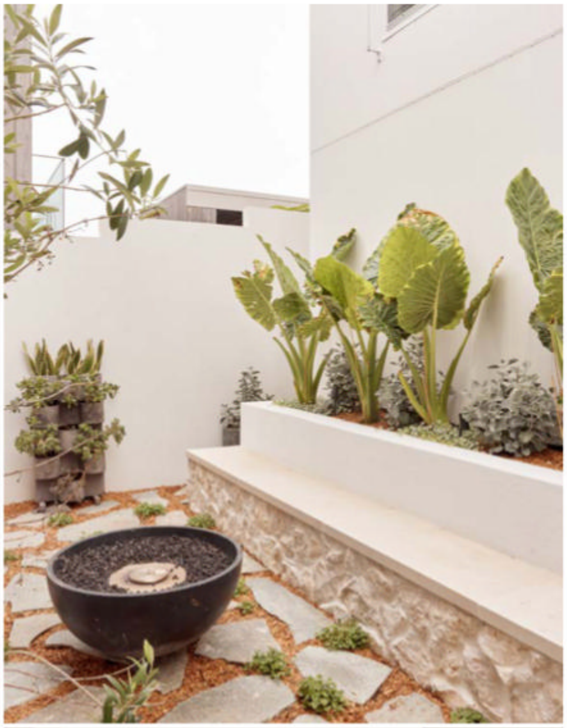
"It offers a great balance between shared social areas and individual privacy. We each have our own private space, but we naturally come together in the kitchen and living areas. It's really helped us strike a comfortable balance between connection and independence." ▶

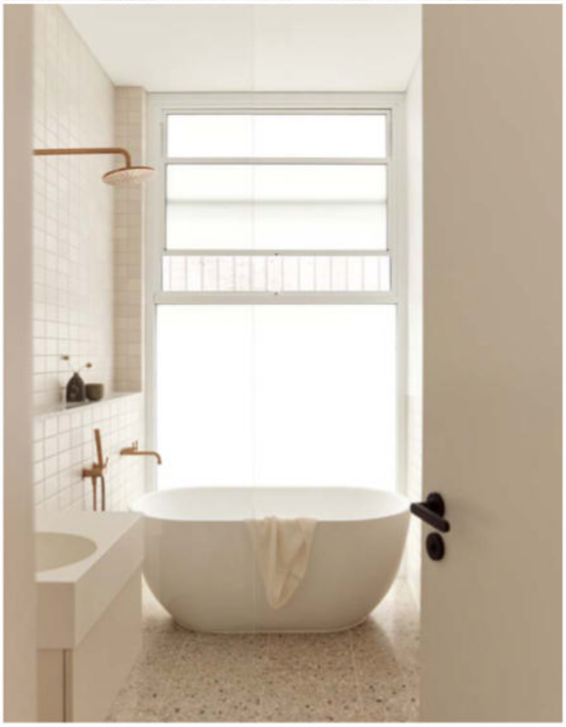
Carla Middleton Architecture: *carlamiddleton.com.*
Hatch Constructions: *hatchconstructions.com.au.*



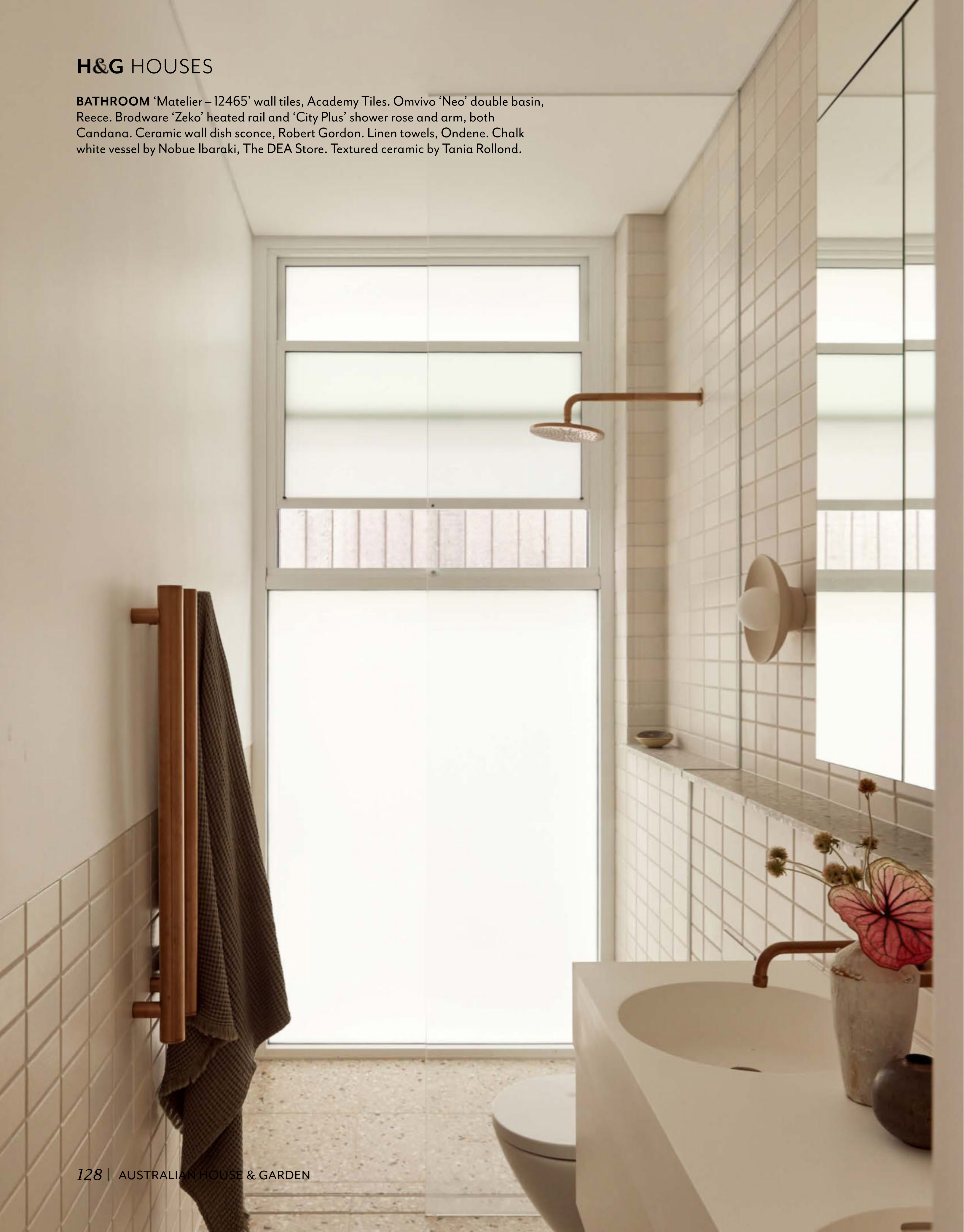
> “One of the owner’s bugbears is clutter, so every item in the house has a place to be put away.”

CARLA MIDDLETON, ARCHITECT





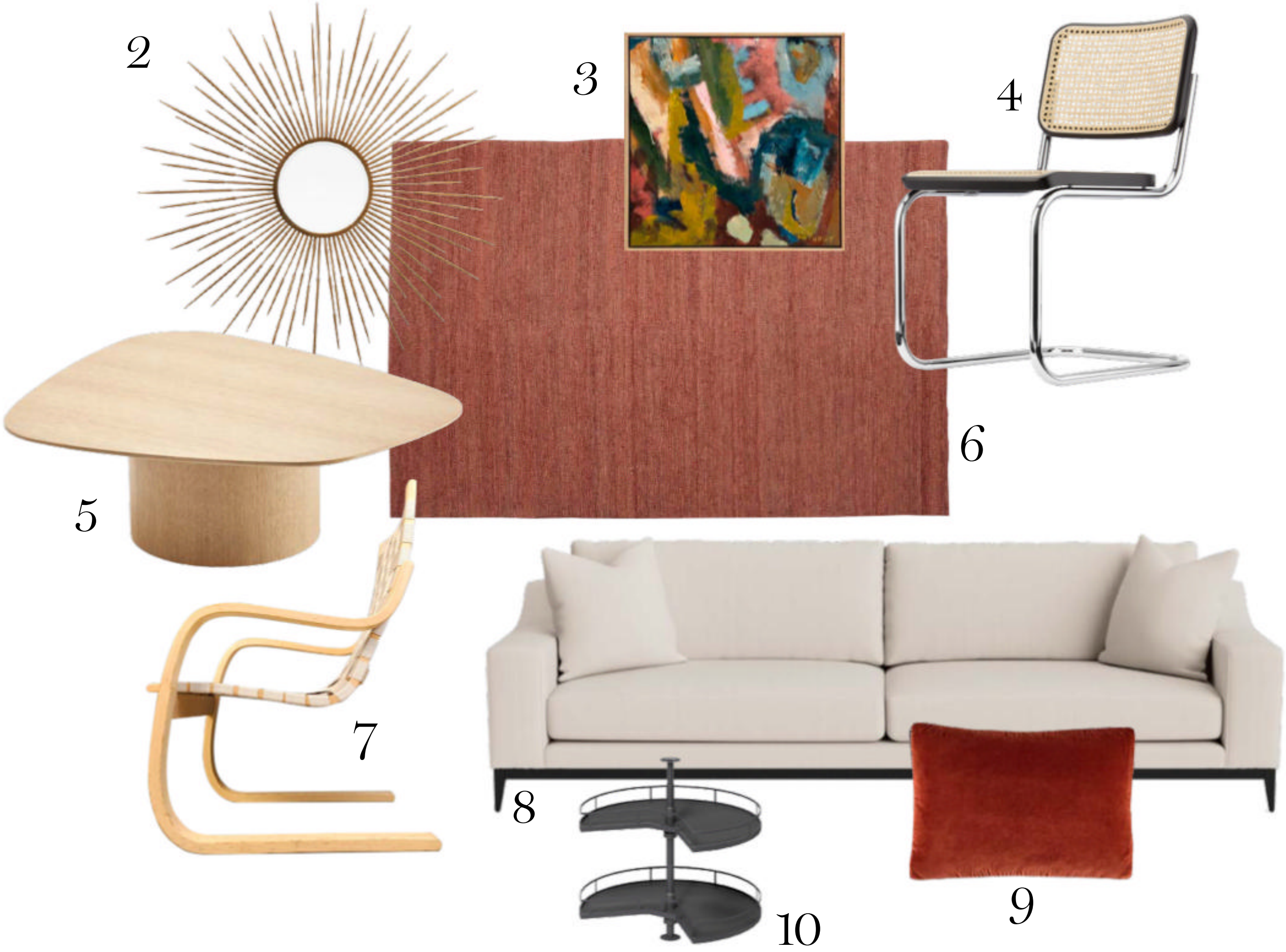
BEDROOM Bedhead, McMullin. Bed cover, Cultiver. Wall Light, Est Lighting. Thonet nesting tables, Anibou. **COURTYARD** Fire pit, EcoSmart. Crazy paving, Eco Outdoor. **BATHROOM** 'Matelier – 12465' wall tiles, Academy Tiles. Caroma bath, Candana. Omvivo 'Neo' basin, Reece. 'Momentti' terrazzo floor tiles, Onsite Supply + Design. **BEDROOM** Thonet chair, Anibou. Vintage Tavolo table lamp, Fineworks Paddington. Shallow bowl and vessel by Tetsuya Ozawa, The DEA Store. Line work ceramics and white ceramics by Tania Rollond. **HALLWAY** *Opposite Dreamstate* artwork by Amelia Axton, Litsa Veldekis. 'Wiggle' stool by Frank Gehry, Living Edge.



BATHROOM 'Matelier – 12465' wall tiles, Academy Tiles. Omvivo 'Neo' double basin, Reece. Brodware 'Zeko' heated rail and 'City Plus' shower rose and arm, both Candana. Ceramic wall dish sconce, Robert Gordon. Linen towels, Ondene. Chalk white vessel by Nobue Ibaraki, The DEA Store. Textured ceramic by Tania Rollond.

THE SOURCE

Create an inviting space that exudes warmth with a neutral palette and soft velvety rust accents.



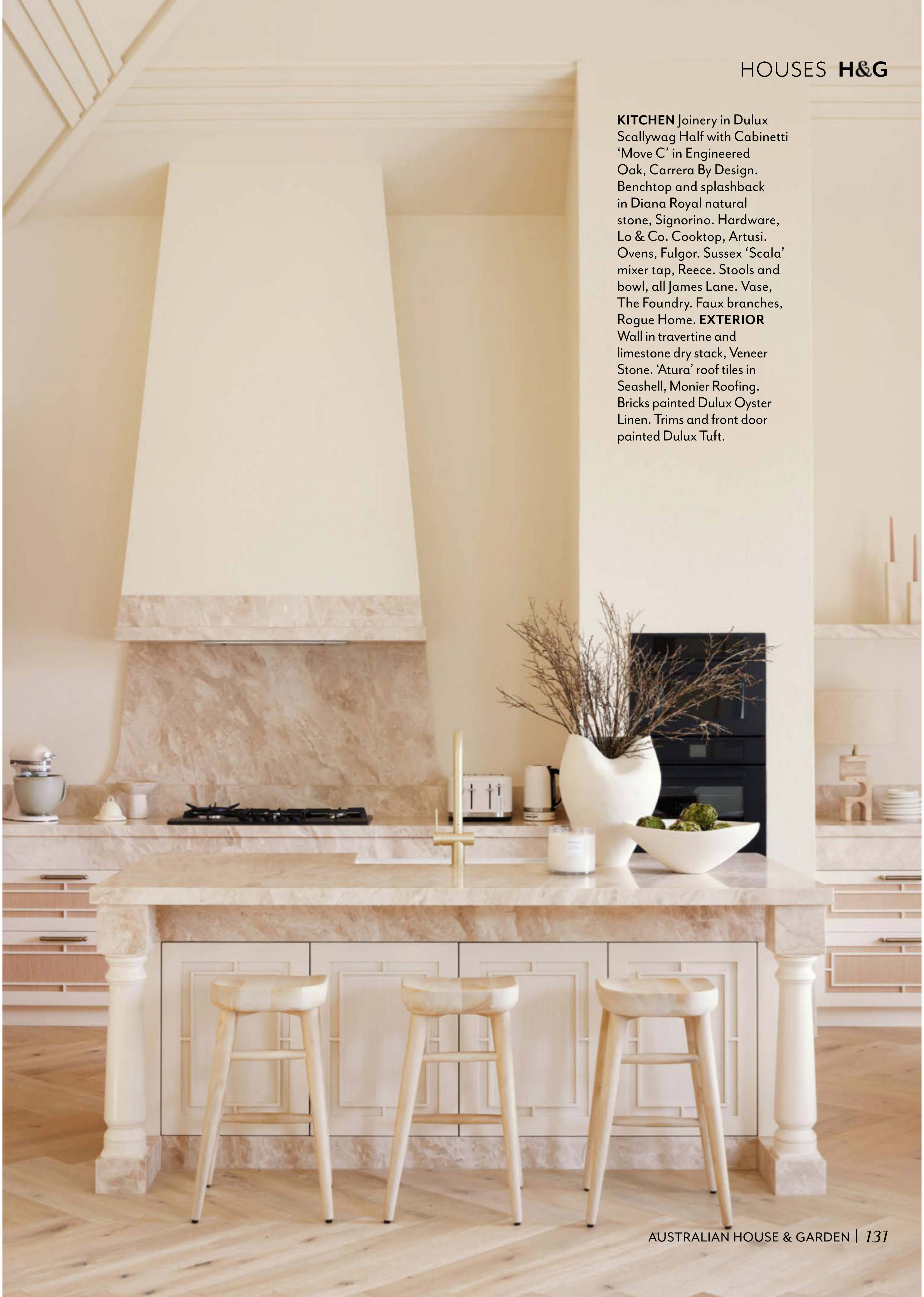
1 Ferm Living 'Komo' **mini vases**, $72/three, Trit House. **2** 'Nova' **wall mirror**, $1095, House of Isabella. **3** *How to have a good time* **artwork** by Holly Terry, POA, Wentworth Galleries. **4** Thonet 'S 32 V' **dining chair**, $2448, Anibou. **5** 'Drew' **coffee table** in Ash, $1890, Boyd Blue. **6** Nanimarquina 'Earth' **rug** in Terracotta (240x170cm), $6520, Cult. **7** Artek 'Model 406' **chair** by Alvar Aalto, $2111, Pamono. **8** 'Jamesport' four-seater **sofa** in Bolt Greige, $8795, Coco Republic. **9** Elitis 'Athena' velvet **cushion** in Renard, $462, Homme Upholstery. **10** Kaboodle **corner rotating tray** two tier solid shelf in Premium Dark Grey, $449, Bunnings. **H&G**

Produced by Marissa Foye.

Living the DREAM

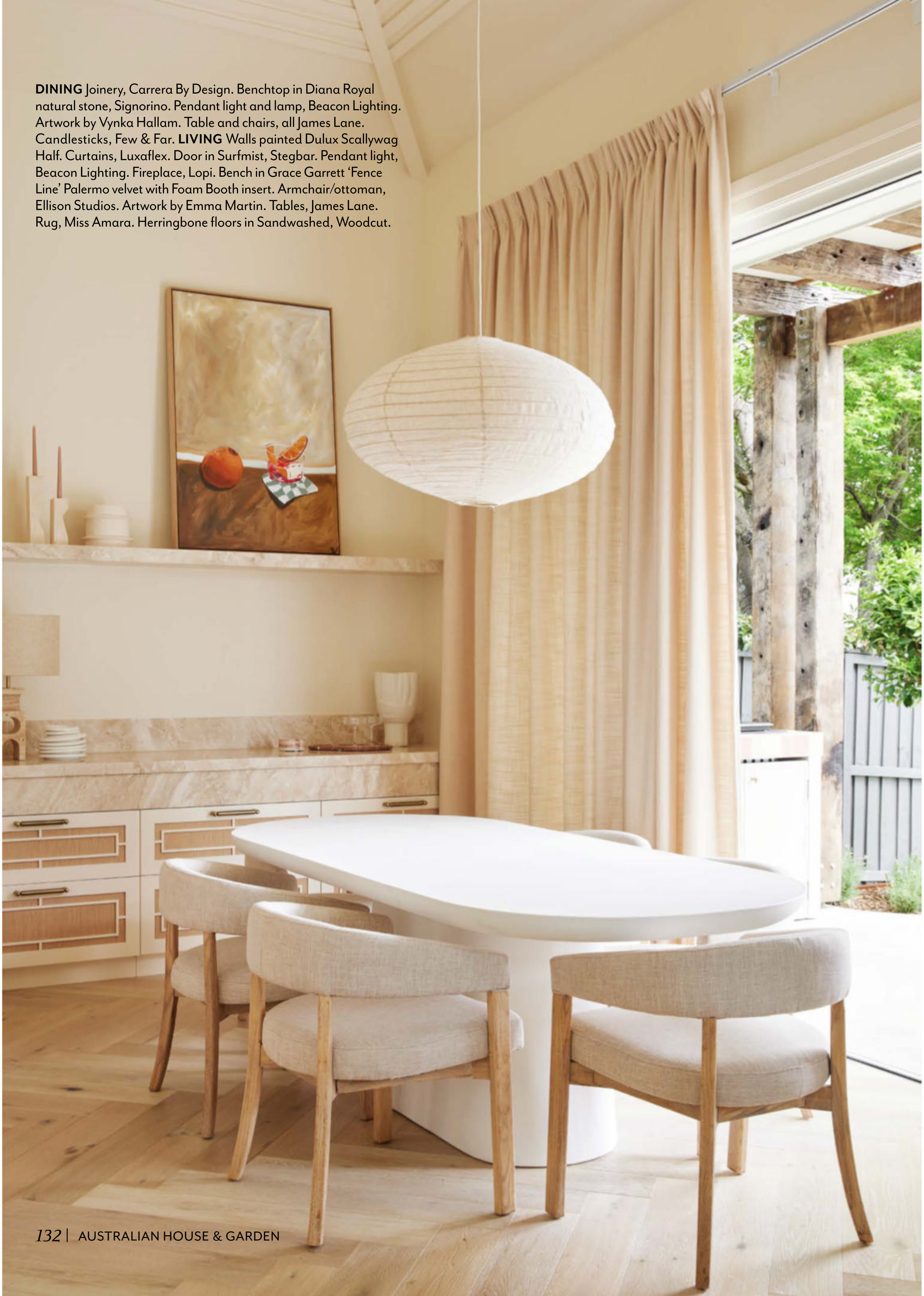
A once tired California bungalow in Sydney now shines as a stylish, spacious home with a swimming pool for a happy family of five.

STORY *Karen Spresser* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Chris Warnes*



KITCHEN Joinery in Dulux Scallywag Half with Cabinetti 'Move C' in Engineered Oak, Carrera By Design. Benchtop and splashback in Diana Royal natural stone, Signorino. Hardware, Lo & Co. Cooktop, Artusi. Ovens, Fulgor. Sussex 'Scala' mixer tap, Reece. Stools and bowl, all James Lane. Vase, The Foundry. Faux branches, Rogue Home. **EXTERIOR** Wall in travertine and limestone dry stack, Veneer Stone. 'Atura' roof tiles in Seashell, Monier Roofing. Bricks painted Dulux Oyster Linen. Trims and front door painted Dulux Tuft.

DINING Joinery, Carrera By Design. Benchtop in Diana Royal natural stone, Signorino. Pendant light and lamp, Beacon Lighting. Artwork by Vynka Hallam. Table and chairs, all James Lane. Candlesticks, Few & Far. **LIVING** Walls painted Dulux Scallywag Half. Curtains, Luxaflex. Door in Surfmist, Stegbar. Pendant light, Beacon Lighting. Fireplace, Lopi. Bench in Grace Garrett 'Fence Line' Palermo velvet with Foam Booth insert. Armchair/ottoman, Ellison Studios. Artwork by Emma Martin. Tables, James Lane. Rug, Miss Amara. Herringbone floors in Sandwashed, Woodcut.



With a vision of 'Cali Cool' style, light-filled open-plan living and entertaining spaces, warm soft tones, organic textures – and a beautiful new swimming pool – are all woven into the design of this recently renovated California bungalow on Sydney's North Shore.

The owners, who have three children, bought the house in 2019, and had two main requests before handing the keys to the Three Birds Renovations team of Bonnie Hindmarsh, Lana Taylor and Erin Cayless: more space and a swimming pool.

"It was full of potential but desperately in need of a refresh," says Lana of the original house. "With only three bedrooms, it simply didn't offer enough space for a modern family. The layout felt rabbit warren-esque, with small, disconnected rooms that weren't making the most of the home's footprint. It had good bones but was crying out for a style makeover and a new extension to unlock its full potential.

"Our vision was to transform their dated family home into a 'Cali Cool' masterpiece – complete with a brand-new extension, a sparkling pool, and plenty of room for family and friends to socialise," she says.

The project took a year from start to finish. The floorplan was reconfigured so that spaces worked for modern-day living, without "dramatically changing" the footprint of the house. The entrance, which originally sat at one side of the building, was moved to the front, and a new foyer added. A main bedroom suite, with wardrobe and ensuite, was created in the space ▶

occupied by the original living room, another bedroom was added in what was once the kitchen and an extension built that includes the new kitchen, living and dining areas.

A grand 5.5 metre ceiling with timber mouldings adds light, volume and character to the open plan kitchen, living and dining area, while a fireplace with a tiered, curved surround, takes centre stage in the living space, flanked either side by built-in window seats (with storage); the perfect spots to curl up and relax.

Stone benchtops and splashback in Diana Royal from Signorino layer in texture and muted earthy hues in the kitchen with both joinery and walls painted in Dulux Scallywag Half. "We also added a statement rangehood that extends all the way to the ceiling, creating a dramatic focal point that draws the eye upwards," says Bonnie of the kitchen crafted by Carrera By Design.

Soft, warm colour and textures are highlighted throughout with deeper shades introduced in some furnishings and accessories – in the living area a generous modular sofa in a warm dark rust shade anchors the space. Walls in the nursery also feature a deep rosy shade (Dulux Terra Rose) with a green (Dulux Moorland) also coming in to play in the bedrooms. In the bathrooms, striking Calacatta Viola is used to great effect on vanities or shelves.

Nods to the house's history can be found in the new design, with exposed brick feature walls using some of the home's original bricks. "We reclaimed the original bricks along the hallway to preserve the home's charm. Exposing existing brickwork adds warmth, texture and history," says Bonnie.

At the back of the home, the living area enjoys views out to the pool, with the kitchen and dining open to the outdoor entertaining area complete with built-in barbecue and a pergola built from reclaimed timber.

Outside, the makeover continues – the front door has been relocated and the porch reworked, and stone cladding and timber arches complete the transformation.

Now that the renovation is complete, the owners say that living there feels like "a dream come true". "The transformation by the Three Birds Renovations team has completely elevated our space. It's more than just a house; it's a sanctuary that reflects our personality and lifestyle. Every corner brings us joy, and we feel so grateful to call this beautiful place home." ▶

Three Birds Renovations: *threebirdsrenovations.com.*
Hipages: *hipages.com.au.*

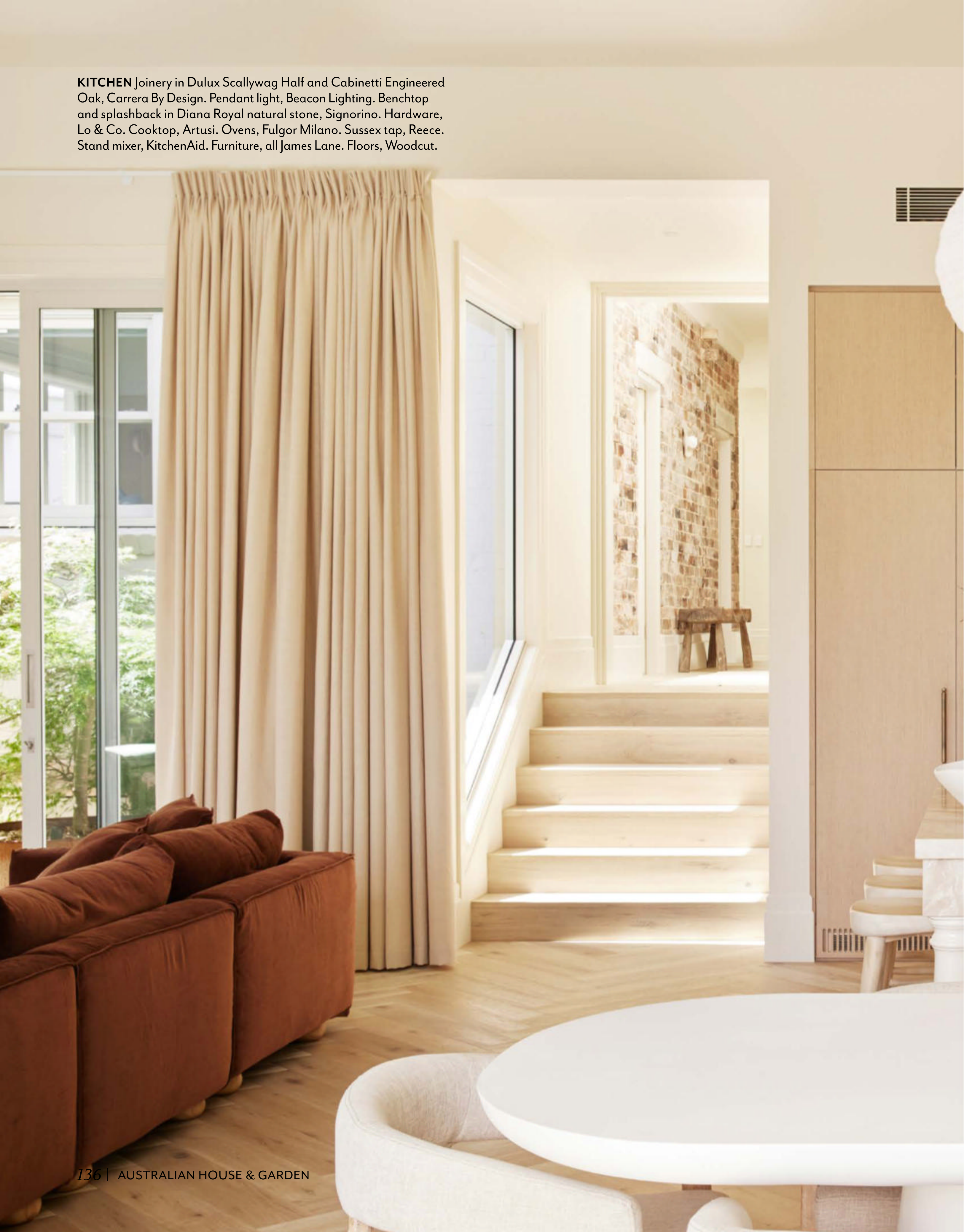
LIVING Three Birds Renovations team Lana, Erin and Bonnie. 'Pirouette Shadings' blinds, and curtains, all Luxaflex. Pendant, Beacon Lighting. Fireplace, Lopi. Benchseats, Grace Garrett fabric with Foam Booth insert. Artwork by Emma Martin. Chair and ottoman, Ellison Studios. Sofa and tables, all James Lane. Cushions, Bonnie and Neil. Rug, Miss Amara. **POOL** Pool, Concept Pools. Pool fence, Prestige Fencing. Umbrella, Basil Bangs. Tiles, TileCloud.

Portrait photograph by Lauren Schulz.

LIVE BEAUTIFUL
EIGHT HOMES ELEMENTS DESIGN

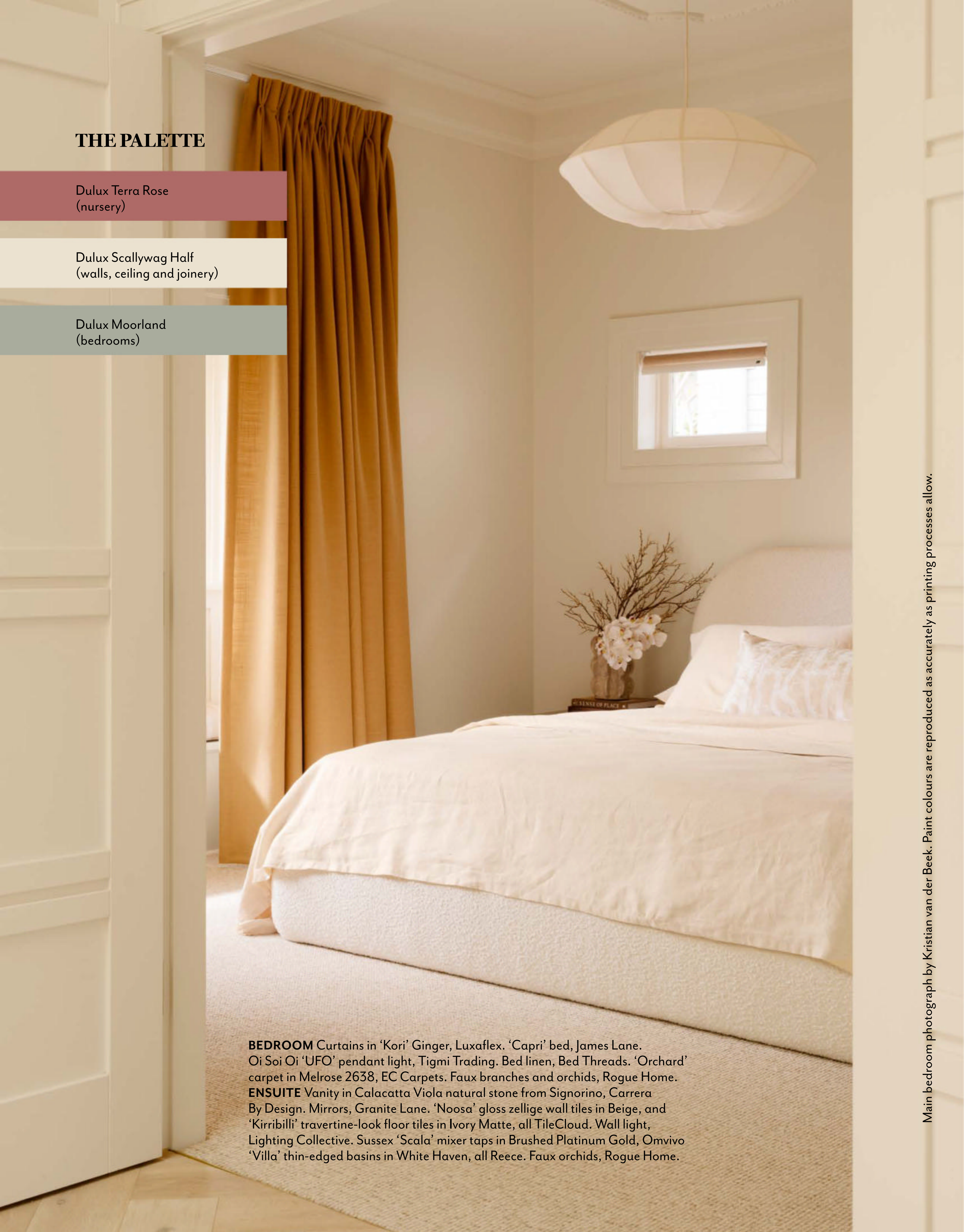
“Every corner brings us joy, and we feel so grateful to call this beautiful place home.”

THE OWNER



KITCHEN Joinery in Dulux Scallywag Half and Cabinetti Engineered Oak, Carrera By Design. Pendant light, Beacon Lighting. Benchtop and splashback in Diana Royal natural stone, Signorino. Hardware, Lo & Co. Cooktop, Artusi. Ovens, Fulgor Milano. Sussex tap, Reece. Stand mixer, KitchenAid. Furniture, all James Lane. Floors, Woodcut.

THIS IS THE LIFE The open-plan kitchen, with its large island bench and generous storage, now has space for both family and entertaining. "Behind a cabinetry door, the hidden butler's pantry/laundry provides extra prep space and a practical zone to hide the mess out of sight," says Erin. "The pivot door can also sit open to elongate the kitchen. Beyond the kitchen, we extended the benchtop into a bar area."



THE PALETTE

Dulux Terra Rose
(nursery)

Dulux Scallywag Half
(walls, ceiling and joinery)

Dulux Moorland
(bedrooms)

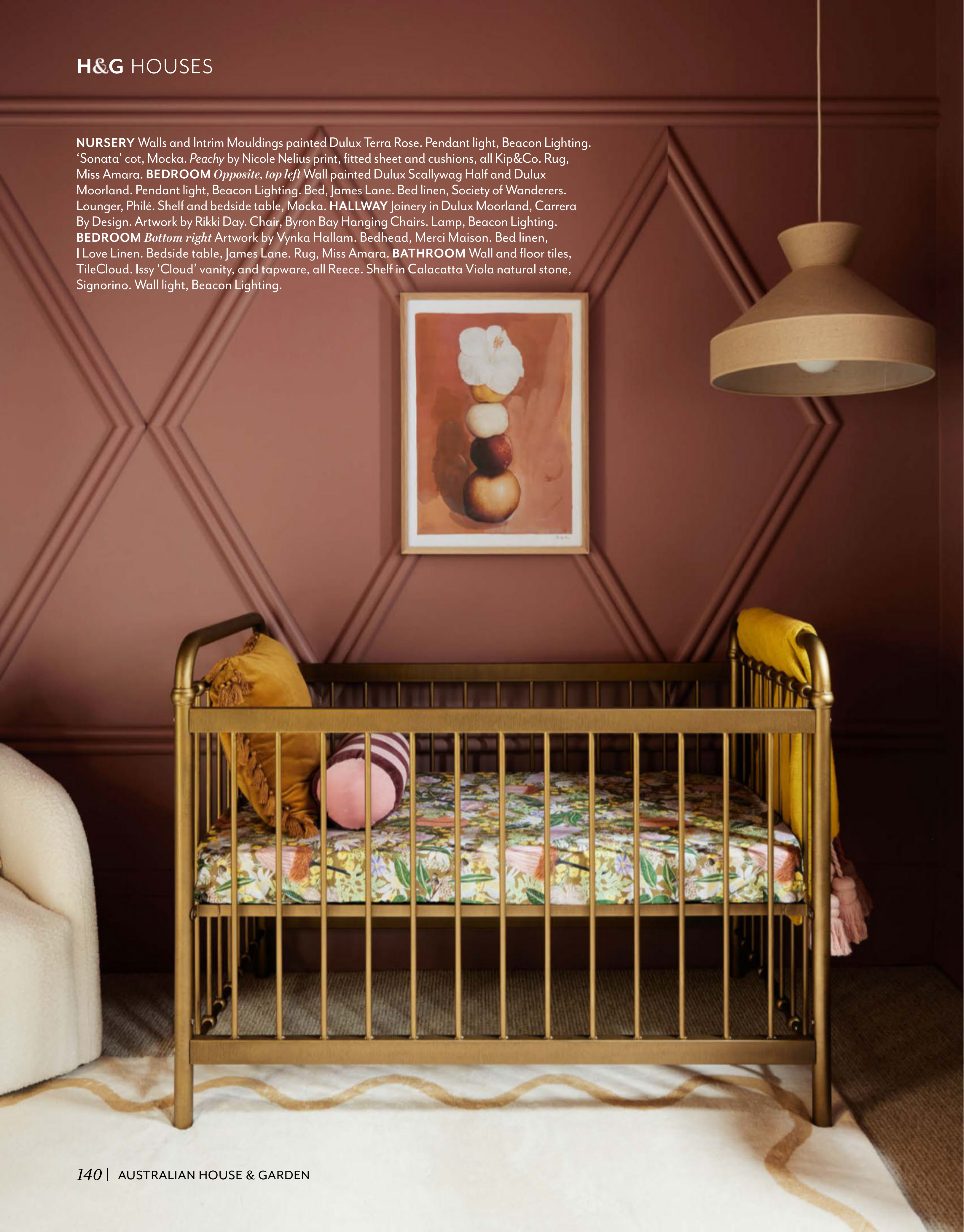
BEDROOM Curtains in 'Kori' Ginger, Luxaflex. 'Capri' bed, James Lane. Oi Soi Oi 'UFO' pendant light, Tigmi Trading. Bed linen, Bed Threads. 'Orchard' carpet in Melrose 2638, EC Carpets. Faux branches and orchids, Rogue Home. **ENSUITE** Vanity in Calacatta Viola natural stone from Signorino, Carrera By Design. Mirrors, Granite Lane. 'Noosa' gloss zellige wall tiles in Beige, and 'Kirribilli' travertine-look floor tiles in Ivory Matte, all TileCloud. Wall light, Lighting Collective. Sussex 'Scala' mixer taps in Brushed Platinum Gold, Omvivo 'Villa' thin-edged basins in White Haven, all Reece. Faux orchids, Rogue Home.

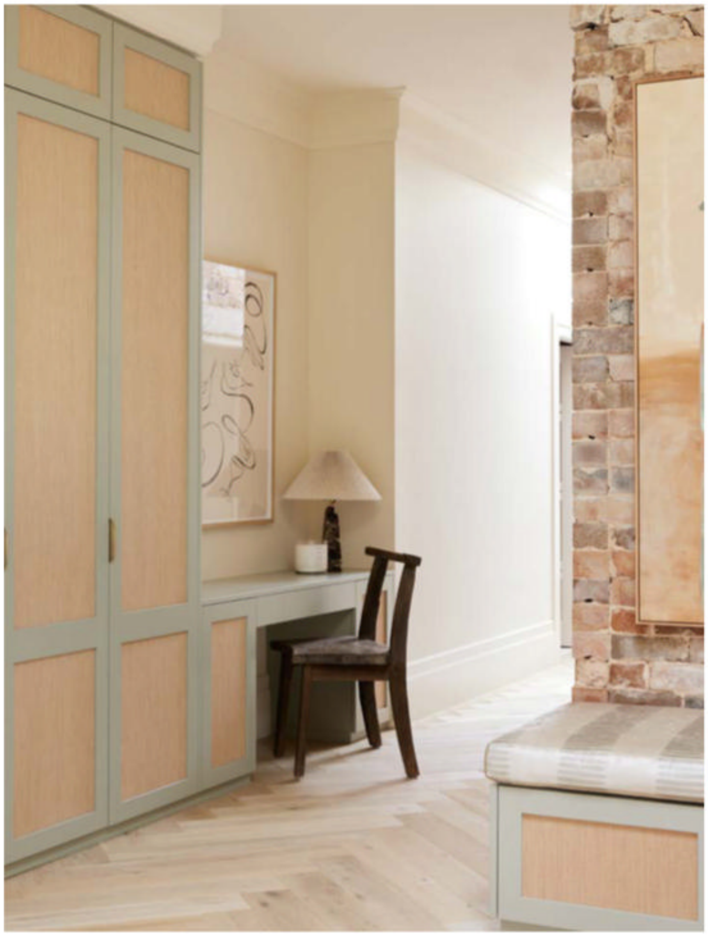
Main bedroom photograph by Kristian van der Beek. Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.

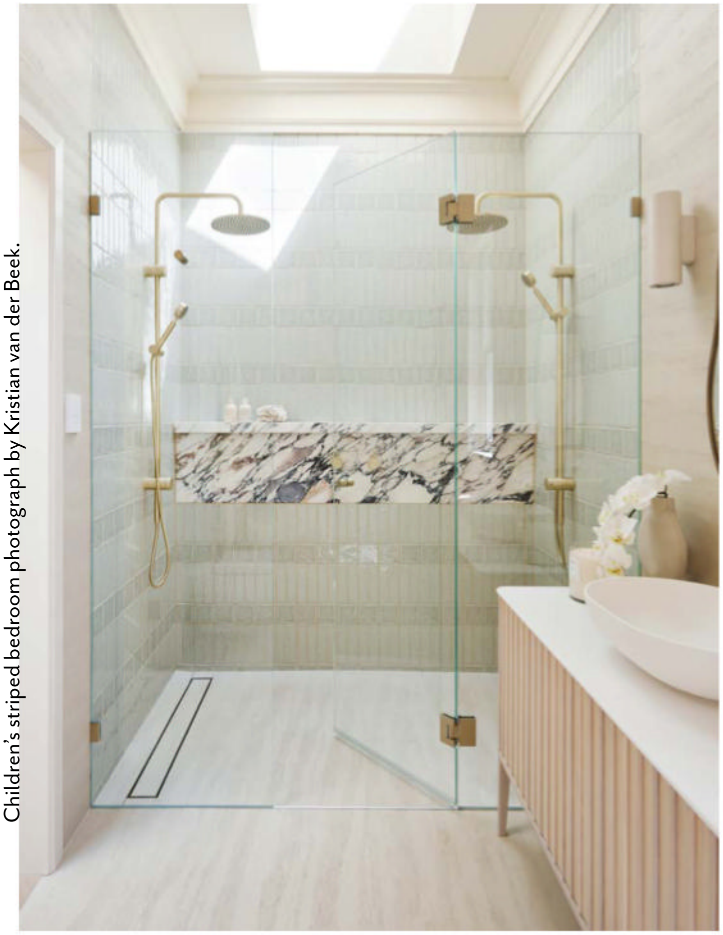
“It’s more than just a house, it’s a sanctuary that reflects our personality and lifestyle.”

THE OWNER

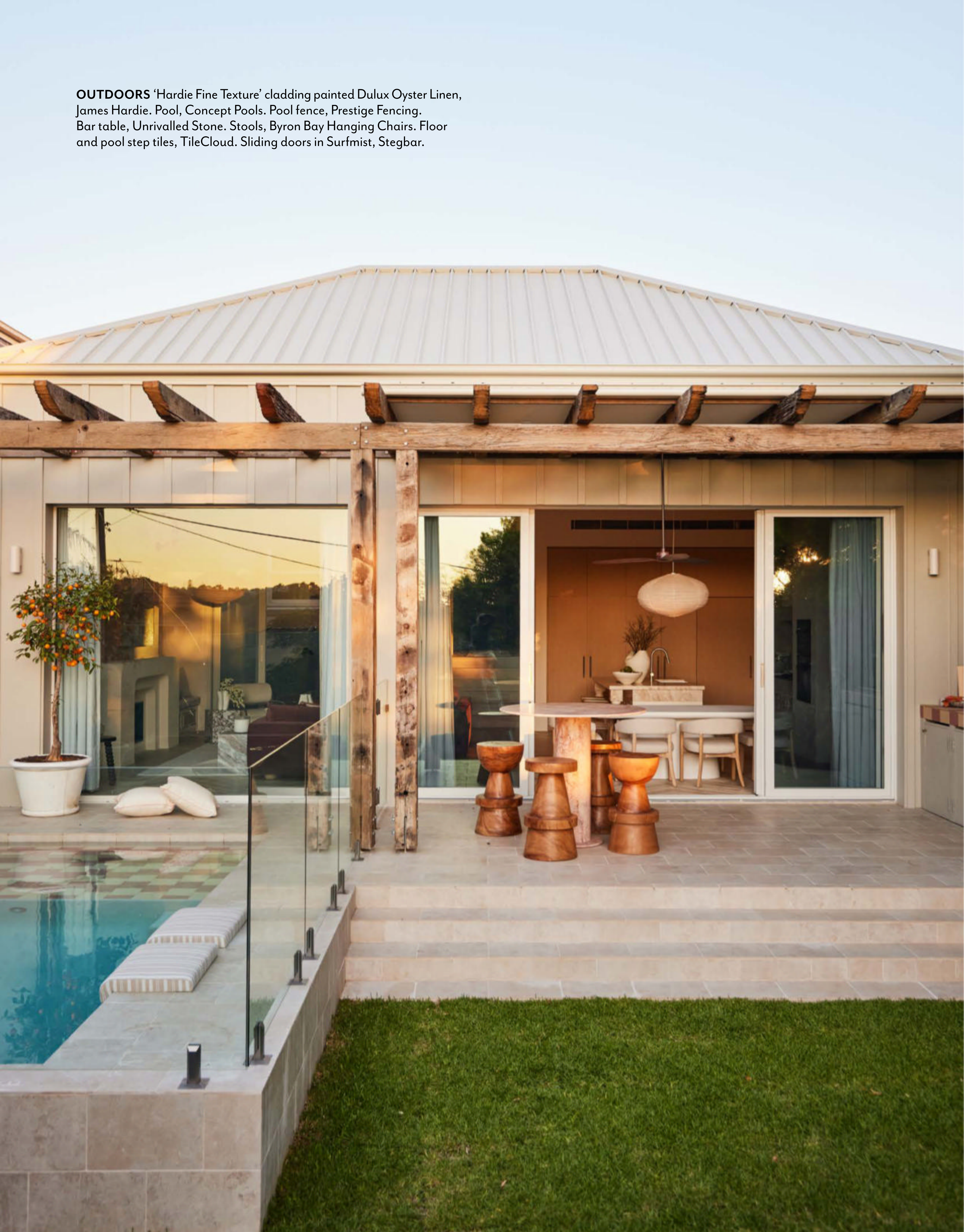
NURSERY Walls and Intrim Mouldings painted Dulux Terra Rose. Pendant light, Beacon Lighting. 'Sonata' cot, Mocka. *Peachy* by Nicole Nelius print, fitted sheet and cushions, all Kip&Co. Rug, Miss Amara. **BEDROOM** *Opposite, top left* Wall painted Dulux Scallywag Half and Dulux Moorland. Pendant light, Beacon Lighting. Bed, James Lane. Bed linen, Society of Wanderers. Lounger, Philé. Shelf and bedside table, Mocka. **HALLWAY** Joinery in Dulux Moorland, Carrera By Design. Artwork by Rikki Day. Chair, Byron Bay Hanging Chairs. Lamp, Beacon Lighting. **BEDROOM** *Bottom right* Artwork by Vynka Hallam. Bedhead, Merci Maison. Bed linen, I Love Linen. Bedside table, James Lane. Rug, Miss Amara. **BATHROOM** Wall and floor tiles, TileCloud. Issy 'Cloud' vanity, and tapware, all Reece. Shelf in Calacatta Viola natural stone, Signorino. Wall light, Beacon Lighting.







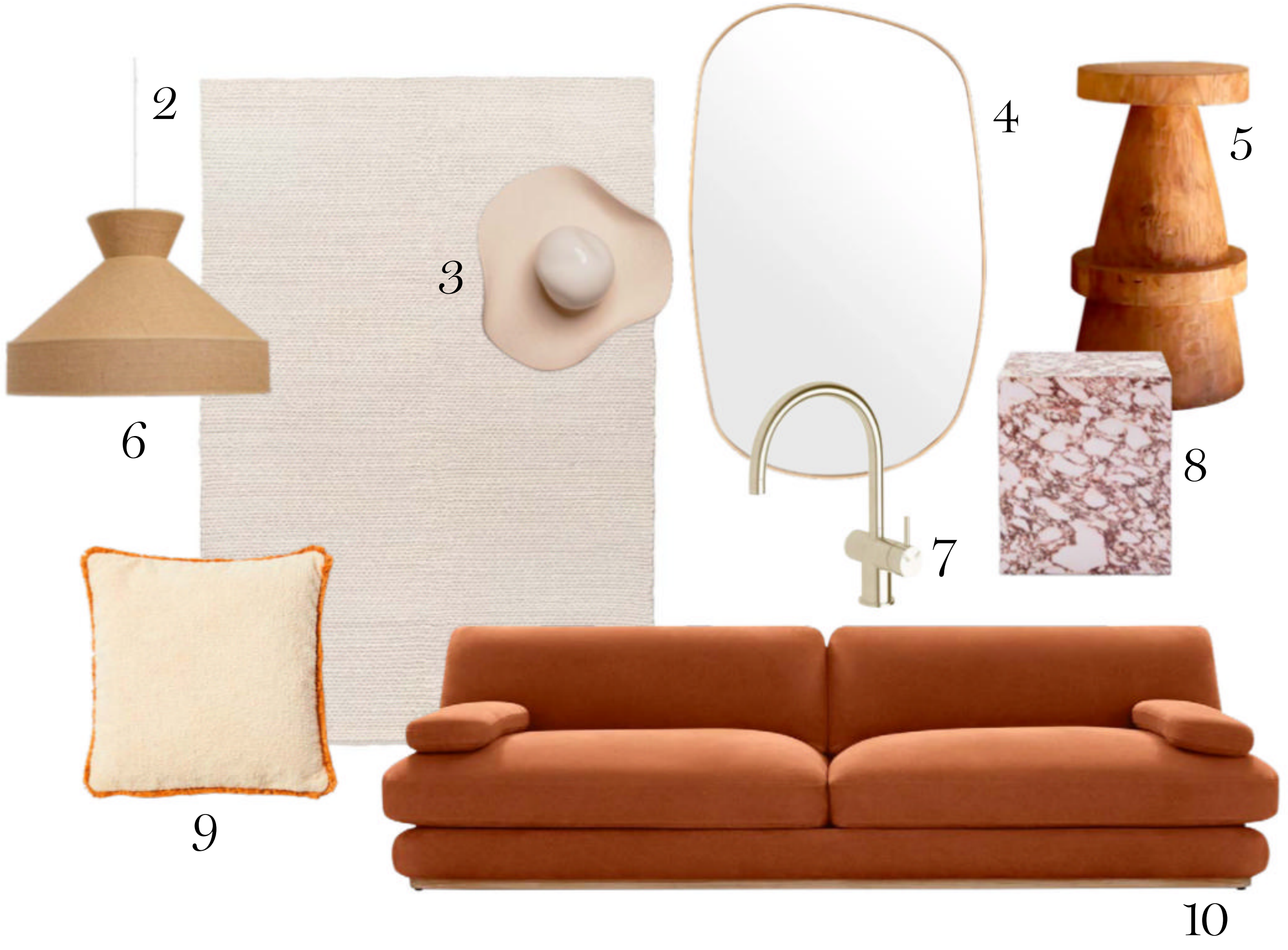
Children's striped bedroom photograph by Kristian van der Beek.



OUTDOORS 'Hardie Fine Texture' cladding painted Dulux Oyster Linen, James Hardie. Pool, Concept Pools. Pool fence, Prestige Fencing. Bar table, Unrivalled Stone. Stools, Byron Bay Hanging Chairs. Floor and pool step tiles, TileCloud. Sliding doors in Surfmist, Stegbar.

THE SOURCE

Turn up the comfort factor with organic shapes in warm ivory and russet hues.



1 'Tamarind' oval linen **shade** in Ivory, $259, Beacon Lighting. **2** 'Laila' braided wool **rug** in Ivory, $699, Miss Amara. **3** 'Puddle' organic **wall light** in Eggshell, $1050, Lighting Collective. **4** 'Studio Form II' **mirror** in Brass, $385, Granite Lane. **5** 'Chess' **bar stool** with coin top, $750, Byron Bay Hanging Chairs. **6** Calido 'Flare' **shade** in Tan Hessian, $429, Beacon Lighting. **7** Sussex 'Scala' **sink mixer** in Brushed Platinum Gold, $2223, Reece. **8** 'Mars' **side table** in Violetta, $499, James Lane. **9** 'Grain' **cushion** in Cream, $129, Bonnie and Neil. **10** 'Stack' four-seater **sofa** in Cabarita Hazel, $4499, Ellison Studios. **H&G**

Produced by Andrea Healy and Marissa Foye.

HOME *sweet* HOMESTEAD

On tree-lined acreage in the NSW Central West, a family of four has built their dream retreat.

STORY *Bethan Lacoba* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Monique Lovick*

KITCHEN Walls painted Dulux Natural White. Joinery, Sydney Kitchens. Benchtops in Quantum Quartz Michelangelo. Mixer, ABI Interiors. AEG appliances, Harvey Norman. Bar stools, Canalside Interiors. Styling items, Orient House and La Patine. **EXTERIOR** Bricks painted Dulux Limed White Half. Hume Doors 'Haven' door painted Dulux Spanish Olive. Japanese buxus and pots, all The Jardiniere Collective. Doormat, Gorgeousness Home.

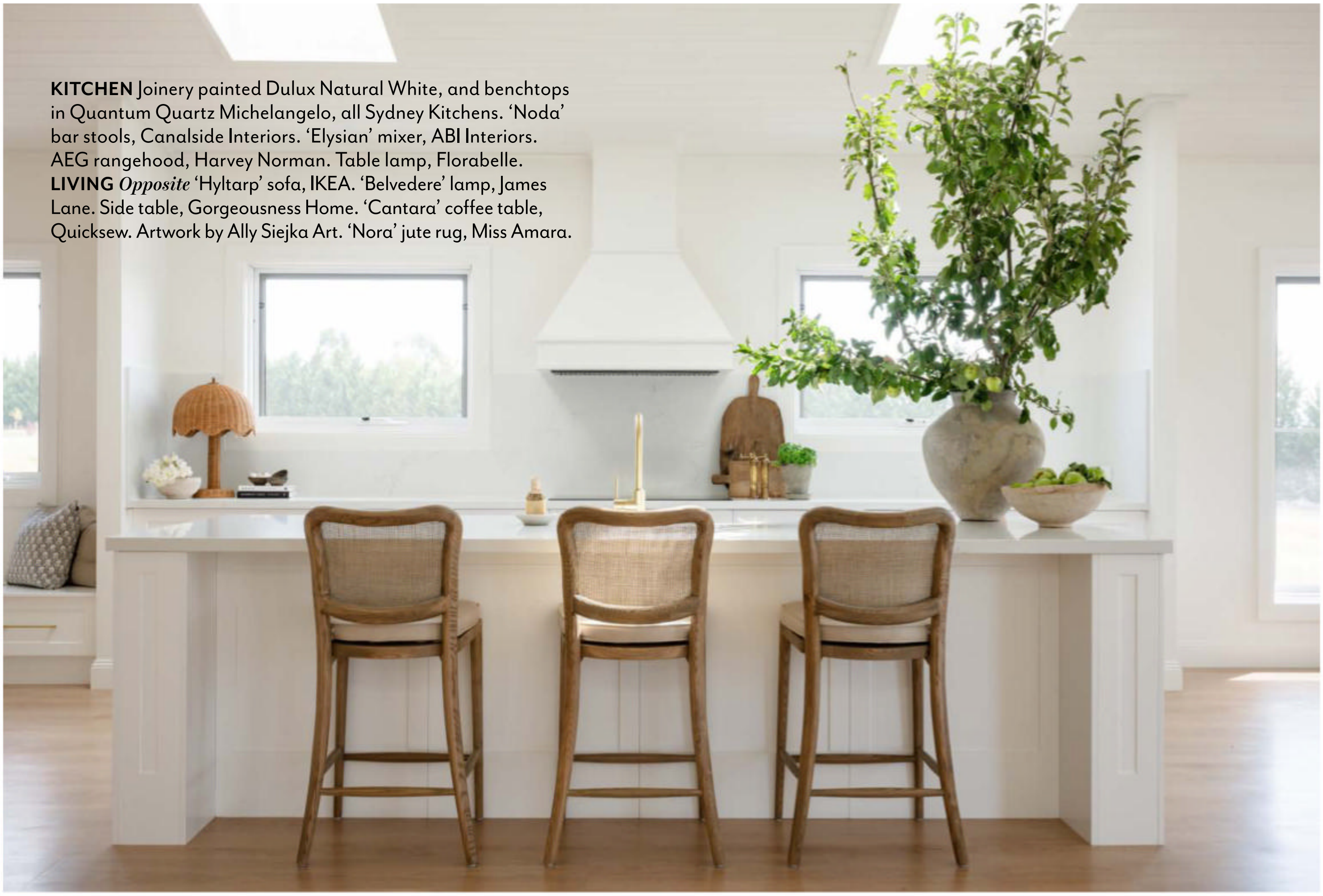
THE PALETTE

Dulux Natural White
(interiors)

Dulux Limed White Half
(exteriors)

Colorbond Southerly
(roofing)

Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.



KITCHEN Joinery painted Dulux Natural White, and benchtops in Quantum Quartz Michelangelo, all Sydney Kitchens. 'Noda' bar stools, Canalside Interiors. 'Elysian' mixer, ABI Interiors. AEG rangehood, Harvey Norman. Table lamp, Florabelle. **LIVING** *Opposite* 'Hyltarp' sofa, IKEA. 'Belvedere' lamp, James Lane. Side table, Gorgeousness Home. 'Cantara' coffee table, Quicksew. Artwork by Ally Siejka Art. 'Nora' jute rug, Miss Amara.

When Jodie and Ash came across this plot of land for sale on the outskirts of Bathurst, in NSW, they knew it had potential. "We wanted a place where our family could grow and create memories," says Jodie. Dreaming of a light-filled home for them, their children Evie, 18, and Buster, 15, and Labrador Trixie, they called trusted friend and interior designer Jo Curran for advice.

Jo drew up some plans, the couple secured the land and engaged an accommodating builder, and the dream began to take shape. "Having known the family prior to working with them made the initial design phase seamless," says Jo. "They knew this was going to be their forever home and thought about the overall plan. It wasn't just, 'we want to build a house, where should we put it?'. They considered the future." A pool and pool house, a shed for Ash (who manages a landscaping business), and a chicken coop for animal-lover Buster were all part of that future scope.

Establishing landscaping on the wide-open plot early on was important, to provide privacy from neighbours. Ornamental pears joined existing pines along the borders. Neat rows of box hedges provided visual structure, and a pretty mix of roses and seaside daisies were added to soften the straight lines.

The orderly garden hints at the meticulous planning within the new home. "Jodie loves symmetry, so trying to incorporate it and make sure everything was practical was a challenge, but one we achieved," says Jo. With balance in mind, the designer crafted a final plan around the family's lifestyle, creating generous spaces and a natural flow. ▶

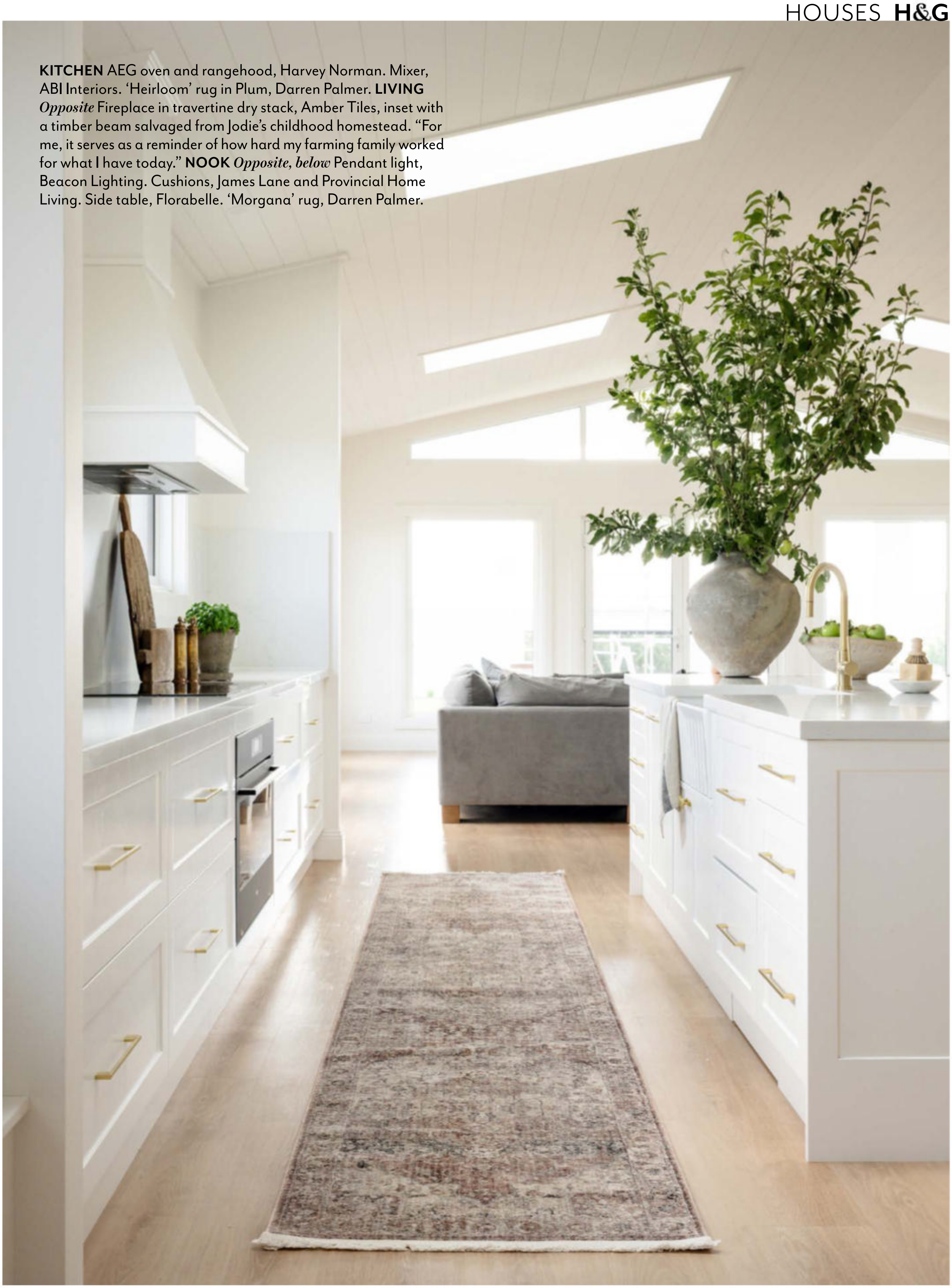
“Our brief to Jo was to create an inviting home that balances functionality with comfort,” says Jodie. “I’ve always known what my dream home was, but I have a terrible personality trait of not being able to make decisions. This is where Jo was amazing.”

Ticking all the boxes on the owners’ wishlist, Jo incorporated a functional mudroom accessed via a double garage. Light and airy, the room flows through to the laundry and butler’s pantry, then to the sun-drenched kitchen-living wing of the house. Also a priority in this zone was a designated retreat for Trixie – an educational assistance dog who supports children at the school Jodie works at. A separate study for Jodie to complete admin in peace was also tucked away in the bedroom wing.

“It was important to have open spaces that encourage family interaction, yet provide private spaces for each family member,” says Jodie. The two living spaces respond to the multi-generational needs of the family. One living area sits between the kitchen and an alfresco space, intended for everyday use. The second, positioned in the centre of the home between the living-kitchen and bedroom wings, was planned as a space for the resident teenagers to relax with friends.

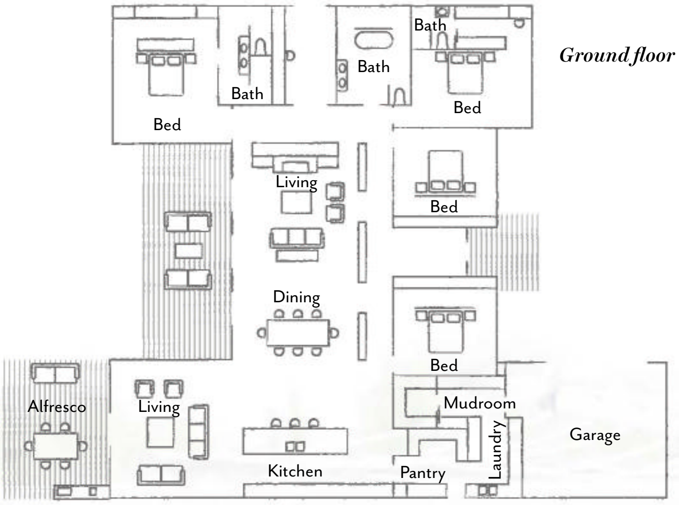
Behind the second living room fireplace, a hallway leads to a private parents’ retreat. The dream for daughter Evie was having her own ensuite and walk-in robe. An aspiring designer, she contributed ideas such as a study nook incorporated into her robe joinery and a fluted white headboard. Circling back toward the central living-dining, you’ll find Buster’s room and a guest room along the hall. “They all have their retreats they can go to when they need to,” says Jo.

When it came to the finishes, Jo took cues from the owners’ rural roots. “They are both country people who grew up in the Central West. They wanted that homestead feeling, but with all the modern touches,” she says. Drawing on natural tones and a wash of fresh white, Jo created a “farmhouse vibe with a hint of coastal”. Checkerboard tiles and travertine notes nod to rural style, as does the fireplace mantel made from a ▸



KITCHEN AEG oven and rangehood, Harvey Norman. Mixer, ABI Interiors. 'Heirloom' rug in Plum, Darren Palmer. **LIVING** *Opposite* Fireplace in travertine dry stack, Amber Tiles, inset with a timber beam salvaged from Jodie's childhood homestead. "For me, it serves as a reminder of how hard my farming family worked for what I have today." **NOOK** *Opposite, below* Pendant light, Beacon Lighting. Cushions, James Lane and Provincial Home Living. Side table, Florabelle. 'Morgana' rug, Darren Palmer.

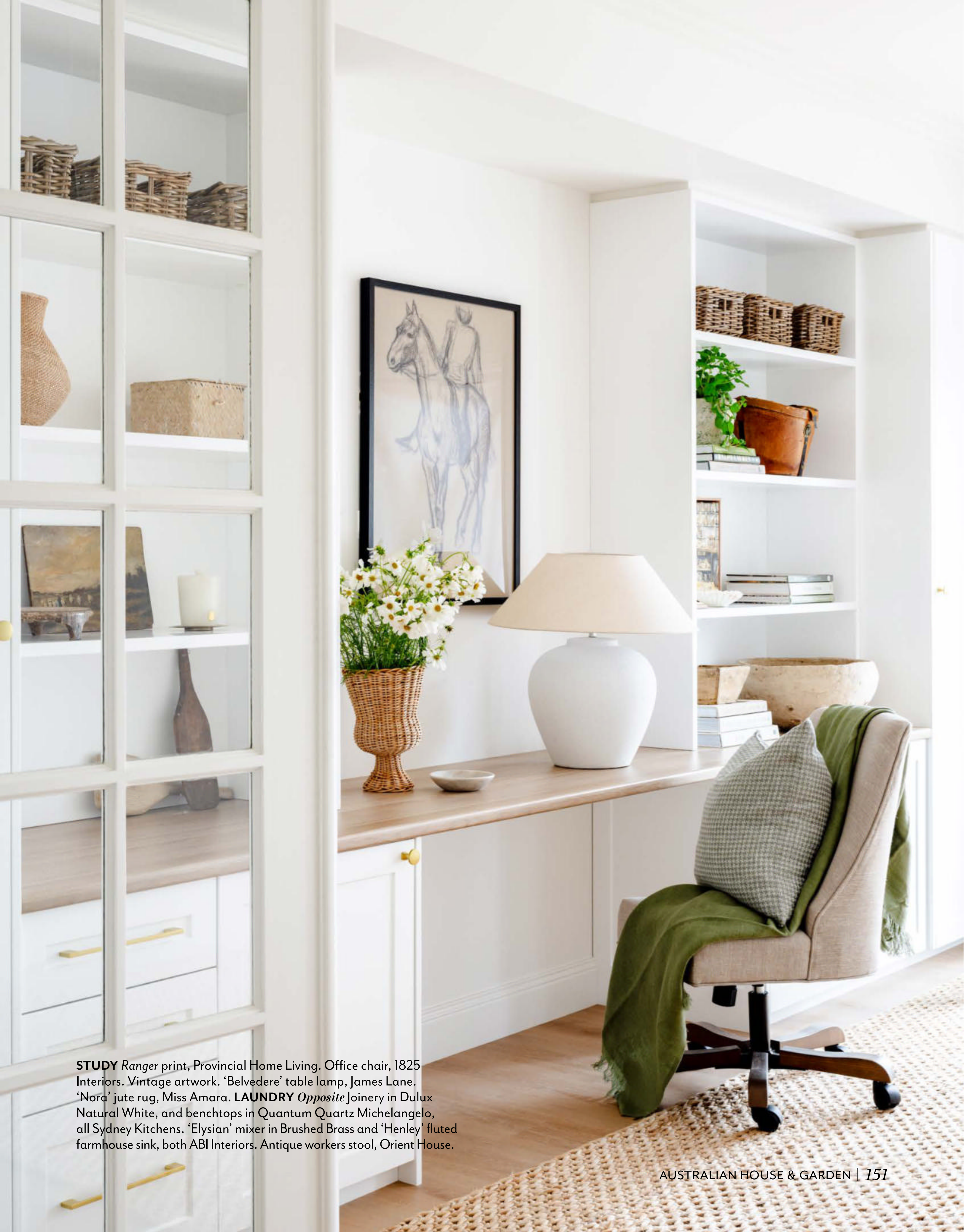
THE LAYOUT


Bath
Bath
Bath
Bed
Bed
Living
Bed
Dining
Bed
Alfresco
Living
Mudroom
Garage
Laundry
Kitchen
Pantry

Ground floor

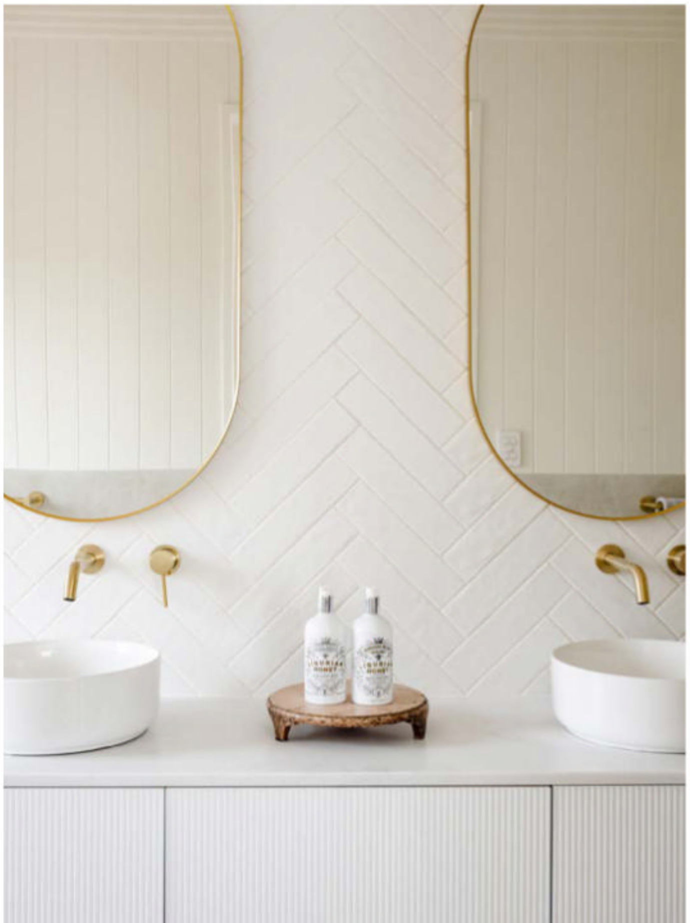
THIS IS THE LIFE

“We love the natural light that floods the living areas and the seamless indoor-outdoor flow,” says Jodie. “There are so many aspects of our home we cherish, but my personal favourite is the laundry. The amount of storage I have makes washing efficient. It’s an area that combines functionality with style, allowing me to keep organised while enjoying the process.”



STUDY *Ranger* print, Provincial Home Living. Office chair, 1825 Interiors. Vintage artwork. 'Belvedere' table lamp, James Lane. 'Nora' jute rug, Miss Amara. **LAUNDRY** *Opposite* Joinery in Dulux Natural White, and benchtops in Quantum Quartz Michelangelo, all Sydney Kitchens. 'Elysian' mixer in Brushed Brass and 'Henley' fluted farmhouse sink, both ABI Interiors. Antique workers stool, Orient House.

BATHROOM Walls and floors in 'Boraie' tiles, Beaumont Tiles. 'Vichy' bath, Early Settler. Antique stool, Orient House. **EXTERIOR** Roof in Colorbond Southerly. Bricks painted Dulux Limed White Half. 'Goodman' wall light, Emac&Lawton. **ENSUITE** ADP wall tiles, Beaumont Tiles. ADP 'Waverley' curved vanity and 'Margot' basins, all Reece. Mirrors, IKEA. Tapware, ABI Interiors. **MUDROOM** Alfie the Cavoodle, a furry guest, has come to visit. Wall light, Ivory & Deene. Floors tiles, Beaumont Tiles.



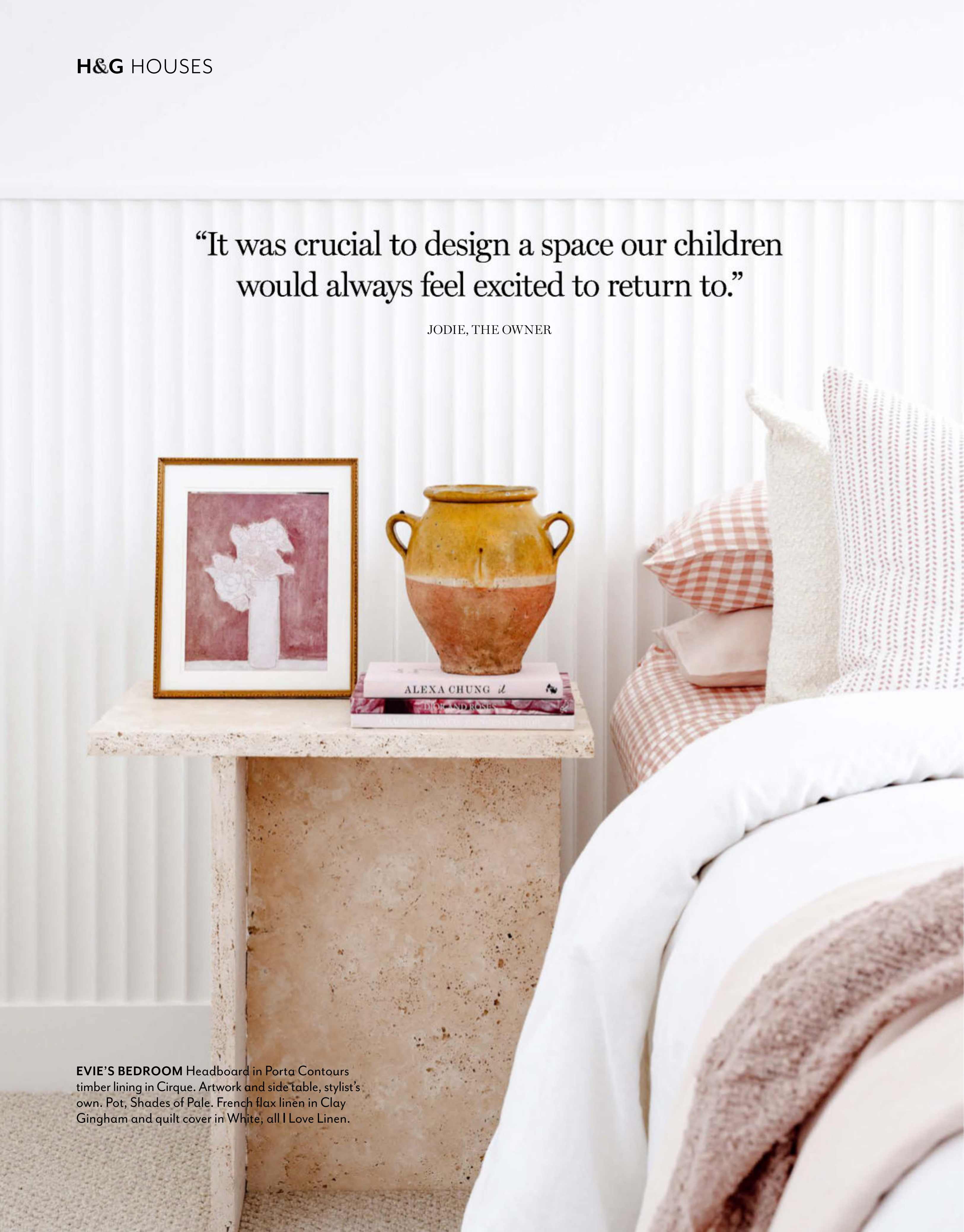
120-year-old beam salvaged from a shearing shed on Jodie's childhood homestead. White VJ-clad ceilings bridge the gap between traditional and modern, while fresh white joinery creates a sense of calm.

Keeping in mind two growing teenagers, at the heart of the home was Jodie and Ash's wish to create a haven that would embrace Evie and Buster "before they fly the nest" and draw them back for years to come. "It was crucial to design a space our children would always feel excited to return to, filled with personal touches and spaces that reflect our family's values," says Jodie. "Every part of our home brings us comfort and happiness, making it a place we all love to spend time in." ▶

Atelier by Jo Curran: *atelierbyjo.com.au.* ***Scottbuild:*** *scottbuild.com.au.* ***Swift Design & Draft:*** *swiftdesignanddraft.com.*

> "I love the mudroom. It's spacious, functional and aesthetically pleasing."

JO CURRAN, INTERIOR DESIGNER



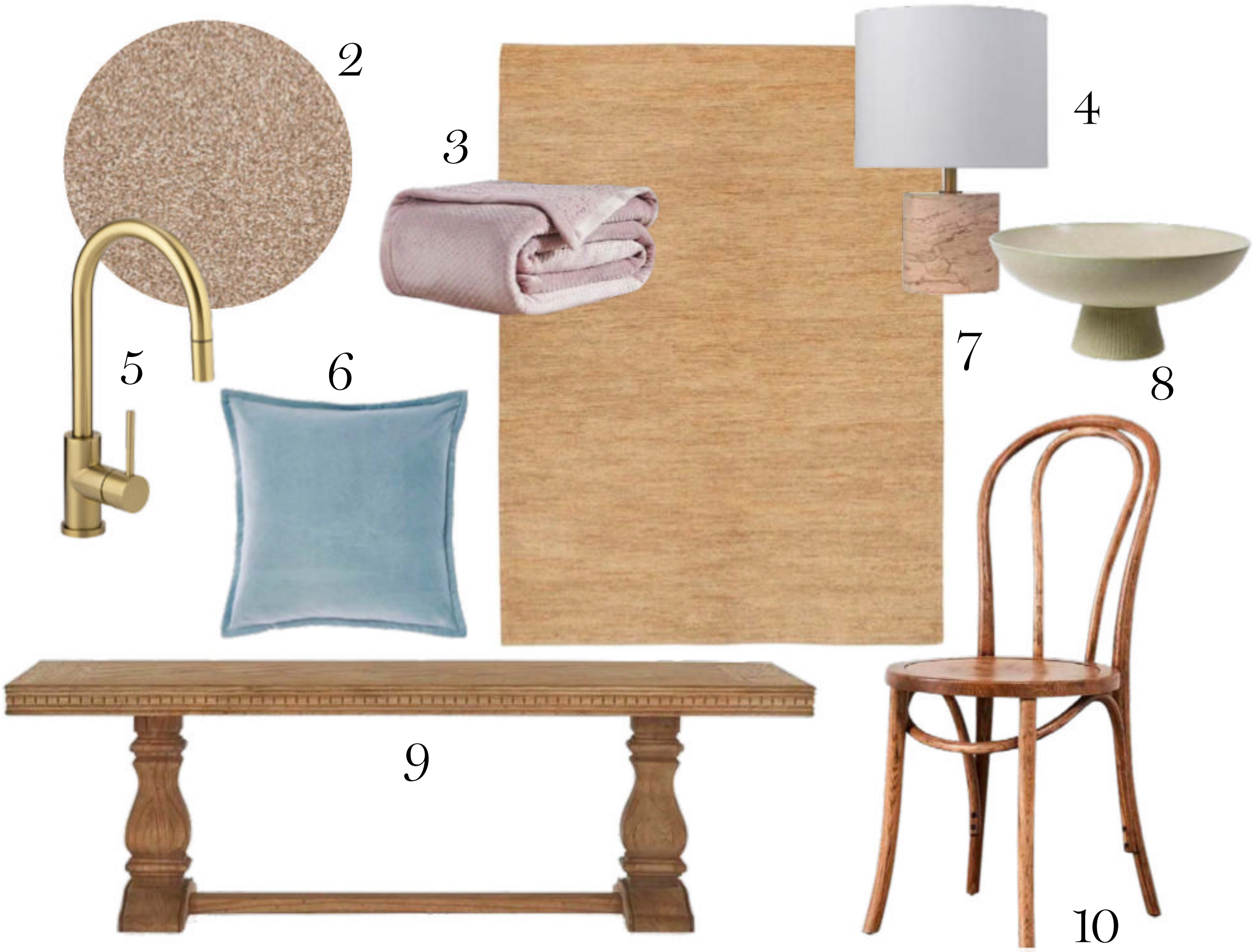
> “It was crucial to design a space our children would always feel excited to return to.”
>
> JODIE, THE OWNER

EVIE’S BEDROOM Headboard in Porta Contours timber lining in Cirque. Artwork and side table, stylist’s own. Pot, Shades of Pale. French flax linen in Clay Gingham and quilt cover in White, all I Love Linen.

1

THE SOURCE

Give country style a contemporary refresh, pairing traditional pieces with pared-back simplicity.



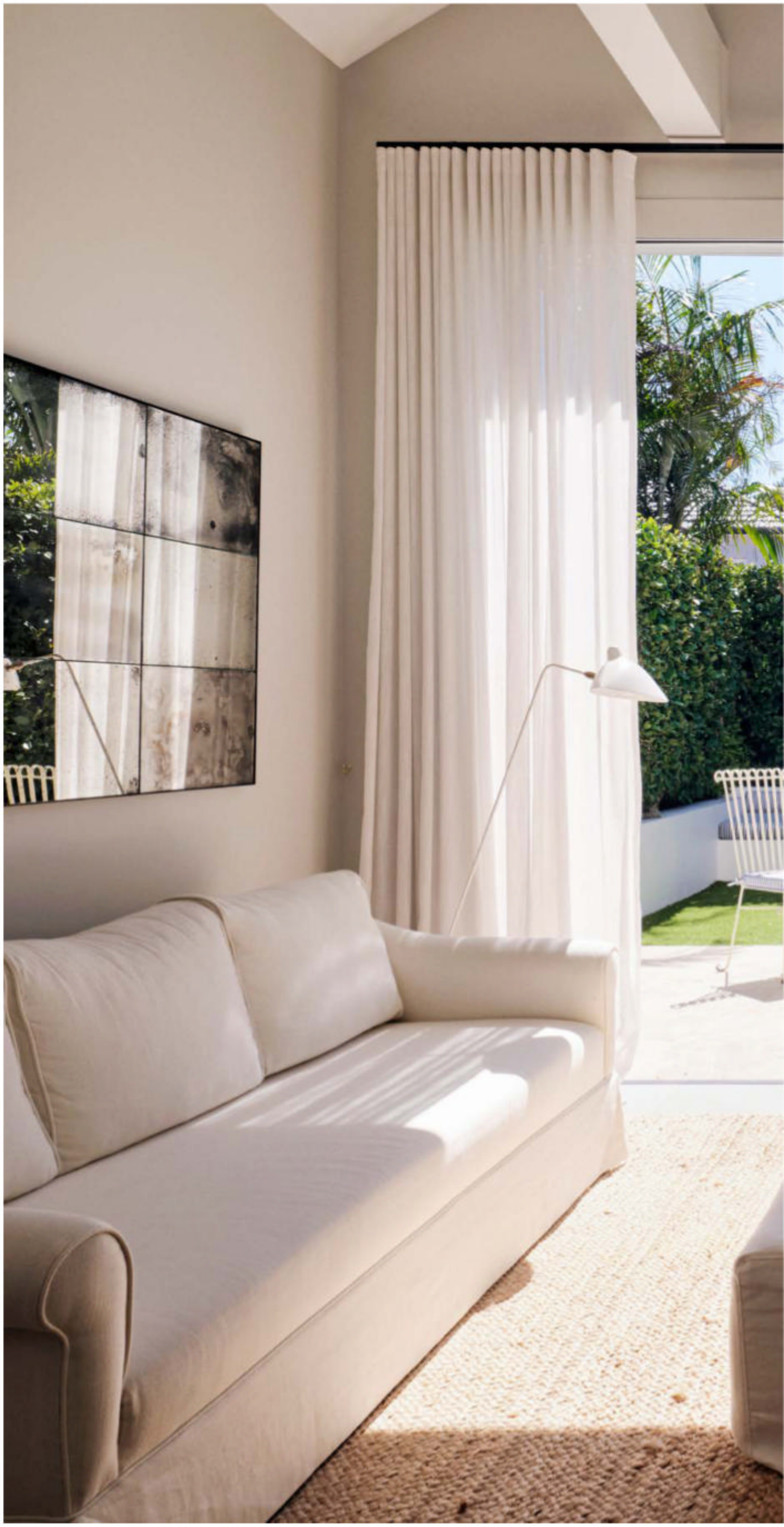
1 'Mirella' **chandelier**, $899, Early Settler. **2** 'Mythic' twist pile **carpet** in Leto, POA, Carpet Court. **3** L'Avenue 'Alaska' **blanket** in Mauve (Queen/King), $169, Harvey Norman. **4** 'Toby' **table lamp**, $189, Domayne. **5** Turner Hastings 'Novanta' pull-out **sink mixer** in Brushed Brass, $1410, Winnings. **6** Linen House 'Loft' **cushion** in Cornflower, $74.99, Myer. **7** 'Canyon' **rug** in Natural (350x250cm), $2395, Coco Republic. **8** Robert Gordon 'Poets Dream' **fruit bowl** in Sage Green, $119.95, Myer. **9** 'Montpellier' rectangle parquet **dining table** in Vintage Natural, $6795, Coco Republic. **10** Bentwood **dining chair** in Natural, $249.95, Provincial Home Living. **H&G**

Produced by Bethan Lacoba.

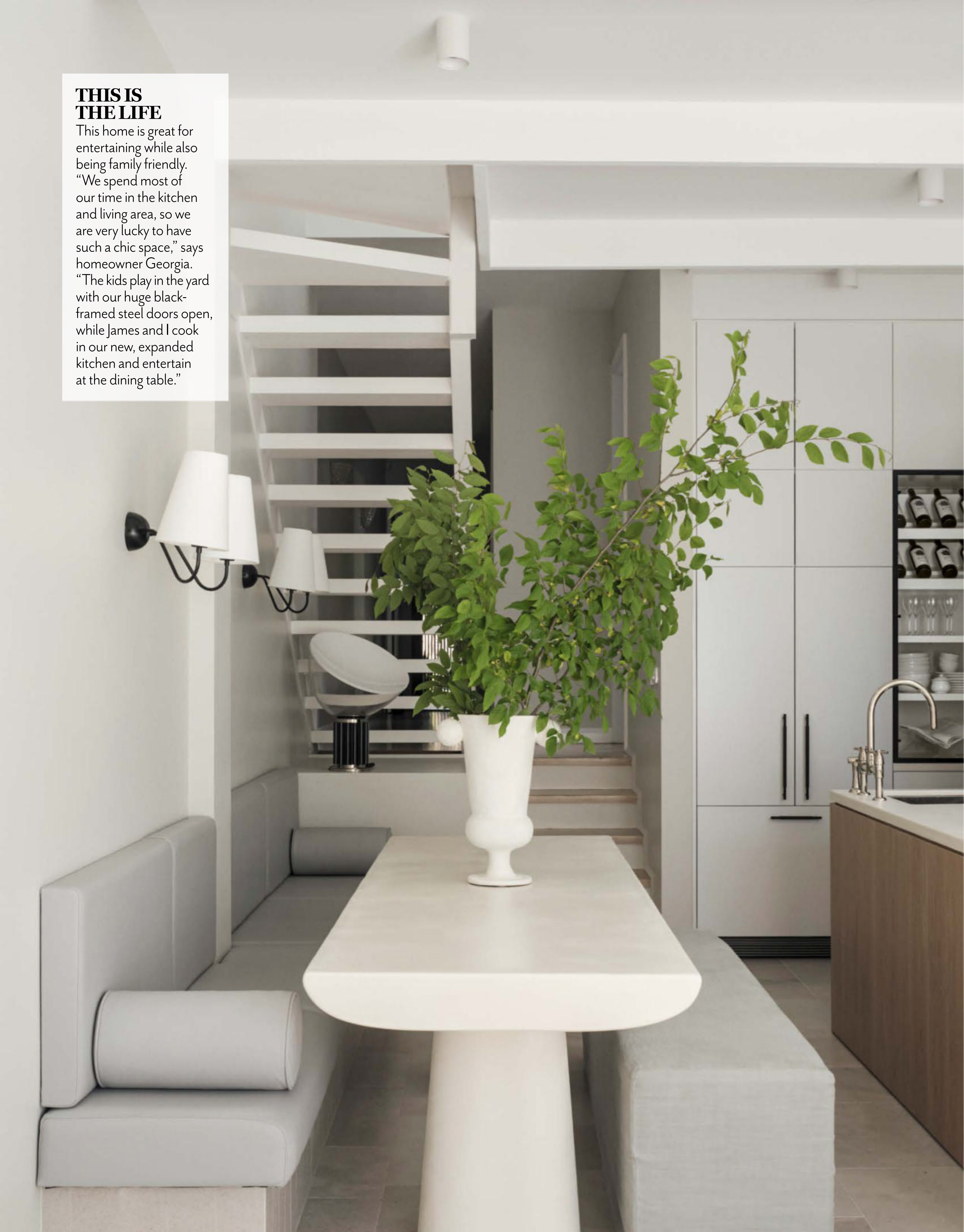
SEMI *precious*

A small Sydney beachside home is transformed into a serene retreat for a family of four.

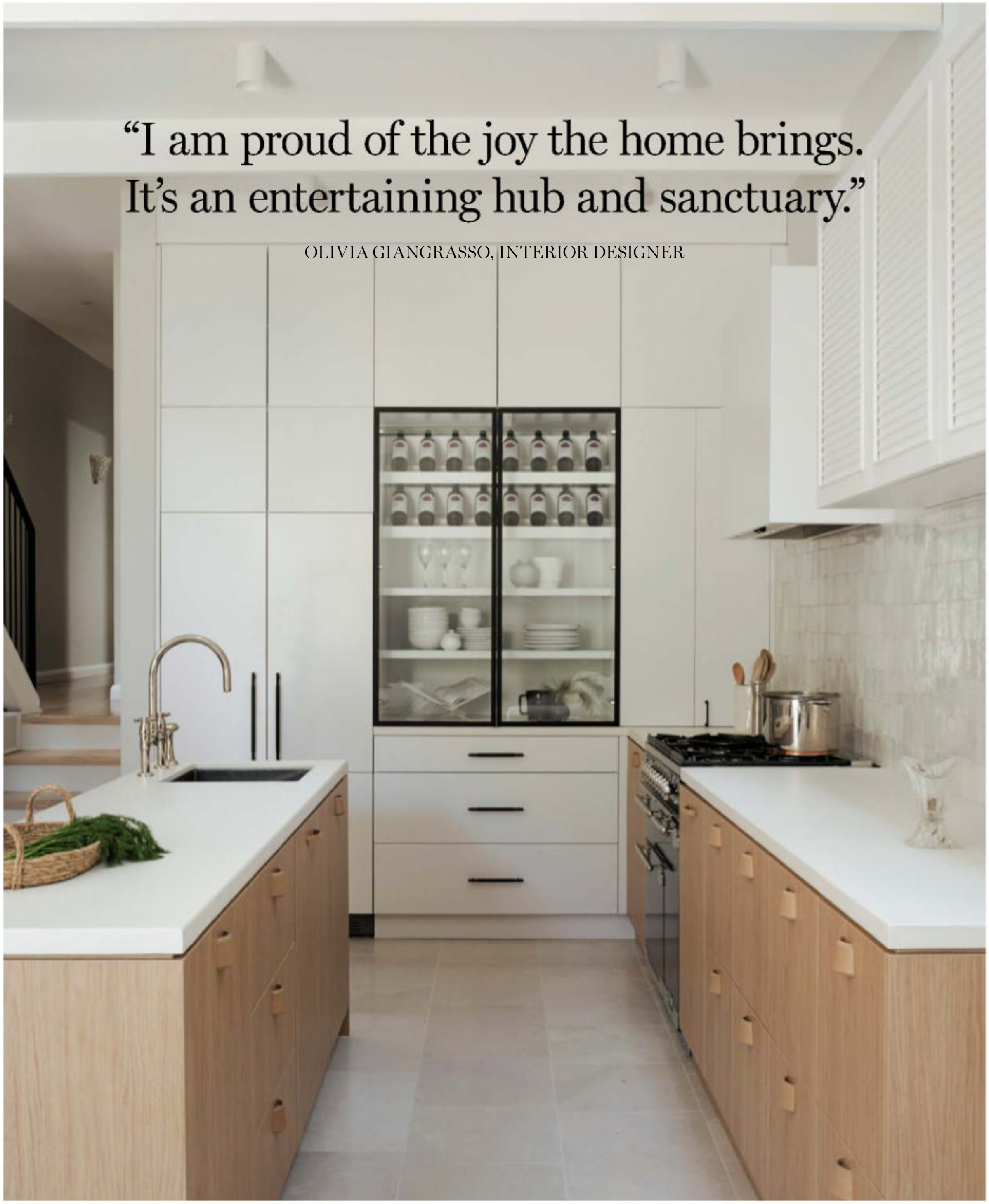
STORY *Chris Pearson*
PHOTOGRAPHY *Dave Wheeler*



LIVING Walls painted Peter Lewis Paints Moonstone. Artwork by Danica Firulovic. Serge Mouille floor lamp, Cult. 'Roll Arm' sofa, Tow and Line. 'Zane' black side table, Pottery Barn. Custom round side table. Armchairs, Esyou Design. Outdoor table, chairs and rug, Marketplace.



THIS IS THE LIFE This home is great for entertaining while also being family friendly. “We spend most of our time in the kitchen and living area, so we are very lucky to have such a chic space,” says homeowner Georgia. “The kids play in the yard with our huge black-framed steel doors open, while James and I cook in our new, expanded kitchen and entertain at the dining table.”



> "I am proud of the joy the home brings. It's an entertaining hub and sanctuary."

OLIVIA GIANGRASSO, INTERIOR DESIGNER

KITCHEN Joinery in Peter Lewis Paints Chateau White, Farmers Doors. Pulls, MadeMeasure. Perrin & Rowe tapware, The English Tapware Company. Falcon cooker, Winnings. Floor tiles, Inigo Jones & Co. **DINING** Walls painted Peter Lewis Paints Moonstone. Sconces, Etsy. Banquette upholstered in NSW Leather Co 'Casablanca' in Iris, and Ottoman in Mokum 'Eternal' in Duckegg Blue, both Institch Design & Upholstery. Table, Gesso House. Vase, Michell Ceramics. Flos 'Taccia' table lamp, Euroluce.

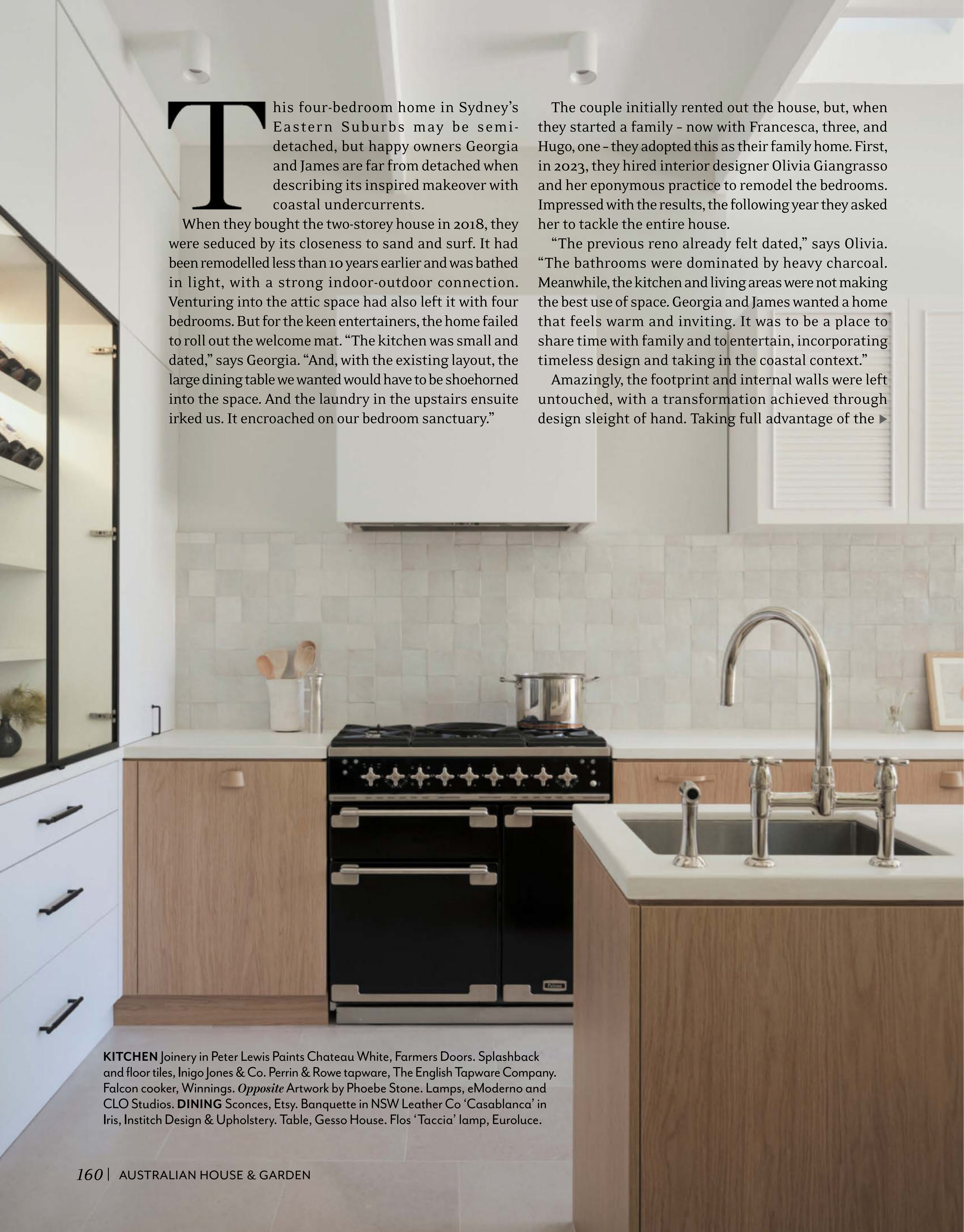
This four-bedroom home in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs may be semi-detached, but happy owners Georgia and James are far from detached when describing its inspired makeover with coastal undercurrents.

When they bought the two-storey house in 2018, they were seduced by its closeness to sand and surf. It had been remodelled less than 10 years earlier and was bathed in light, with a strong indoor-outdoor connection. Venturing into the attic space had also left it with four bedrooms. But for the keen entertainers, the home failed to roll out the welcome mat. "The kitchen was small and dated," says Georgia. "And, with the existing layout, the large dining table we wanted would have to be shoehorned into the space. And the laundry in the upstairs ensuite irked us. It encroached on our bedroom sanctuary."

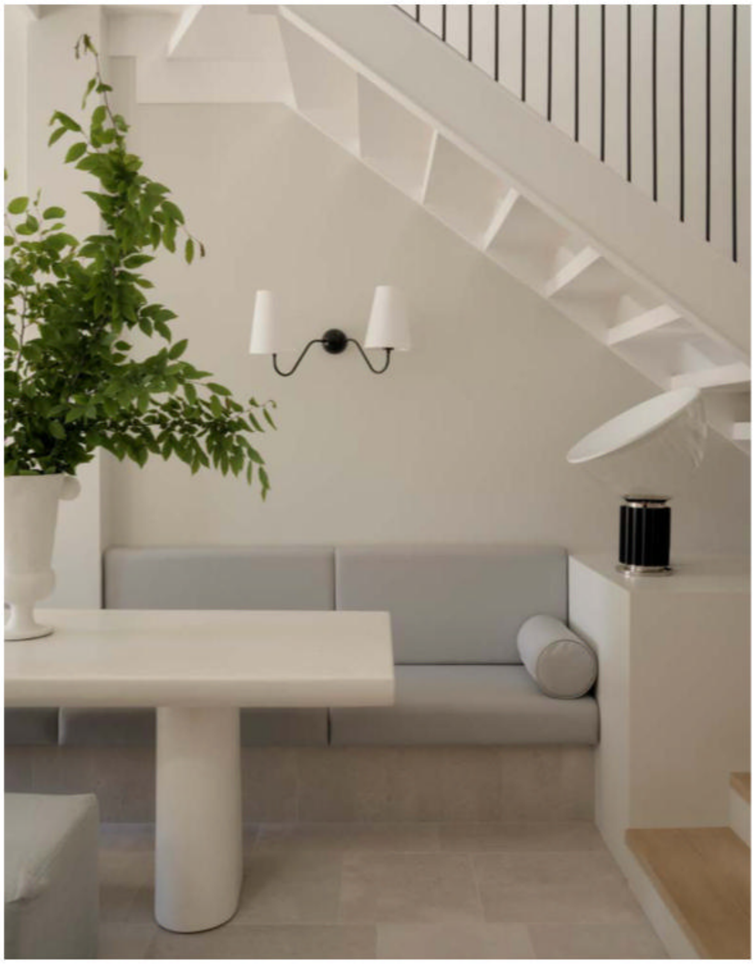
The couple initially rented out the house, but, when they started a family – now with Francesca, three, and Hugo, one – they adopted this as their family home. First, in 2023, they hired interior designer Olivia Giangrasso and her eponymous practice to remodel the bedrooms. Impressed with the results, the following year they asked her to tackle the entire house.

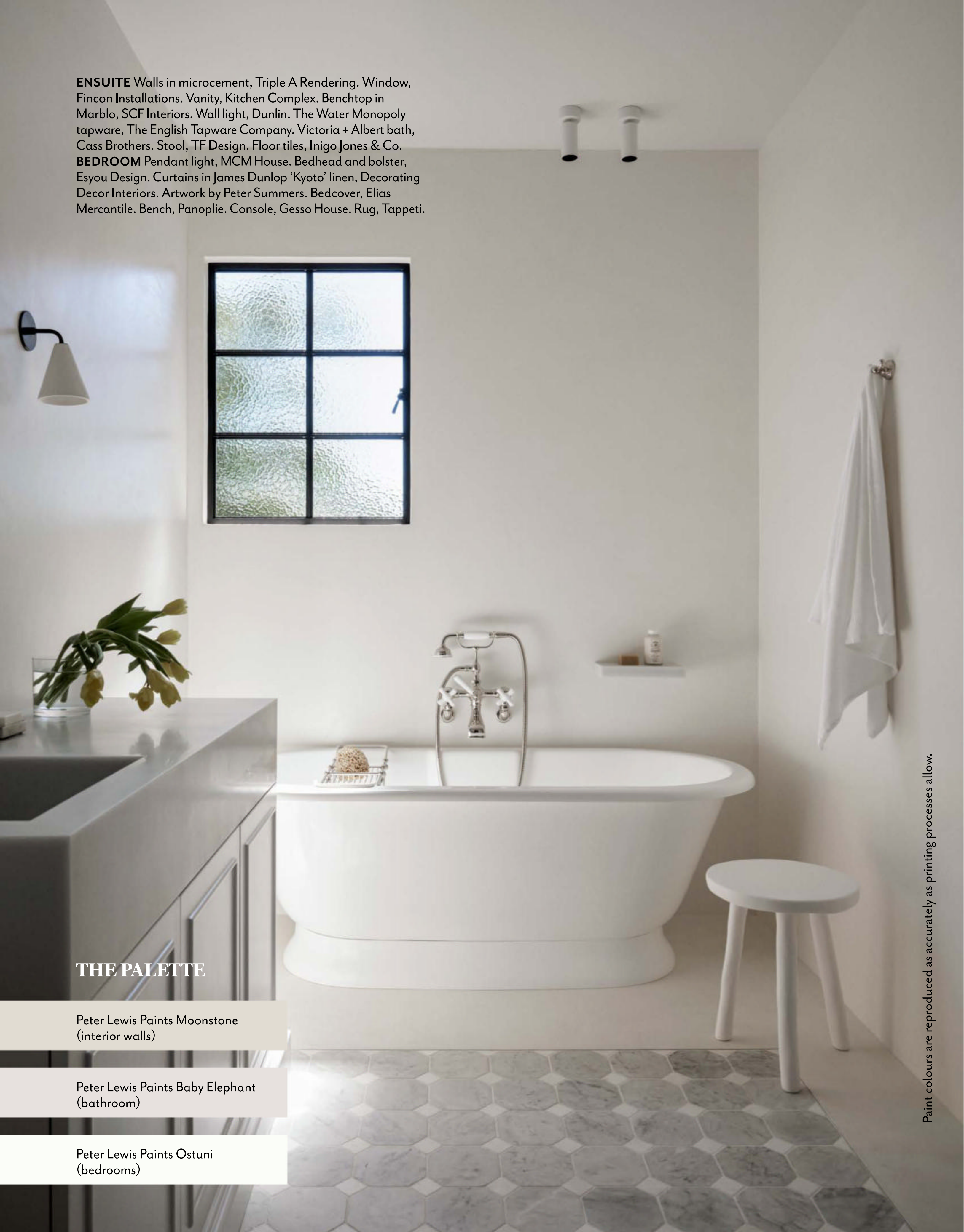
"The previous reno already felt dated," says Olivia. "The bathrooms were dominated by heavy charcoal. Meanwhile, the kitchen and living areas were not making the best use of space. Georgia and James wanted a home that feels warm and inviting. It was to be a place to share time with family and to entertain, incorporating timeless design and taking in the coastal context."

Amazingly, the footprint and internal walls were left untouched, with a transformation achieved through design sleight of hand. Taking full advantage of the ▶



KITCHEN Joinery in Peter Lewis Paints Chateau White, Farmers Doors. Splashback and floor tiles, Inigo Jones & Co. Perrin & Rowe tapware, The English Tapware Company. Falcon cooker, Winnings. *Opposite* Artwork by Phoebe Stone. Lamps, eModerno and CLO Studios. **DINING** Sconces, Etsy. Banquette in NSW Leather Co 'Casablanca' in Iris, Institch Design & Upholstery. Table, Gesso House. Flos 'Taccia' lamp, Euroluce.





ENSUITE Walls in microcement, Triple A Rendering. Window, Fincon Installations. Vanity, Kitchen Complex. Benchtop in Marblo, SCF Interiors. Wall light, Dunlin. The Water Monopoly tapware, The English Tapware Company. Victoria + Albert bath, Cass Brothers. Stool, TF Design. Floor tiles, Inigo Jones & Co. **BEDROOM** Pendant light, MCM House. Bedhead and bolster, Esyou Design. Curtains in James Dunlop 'Kyoto' linen, Decorating Decor Interiors. Artwork by Peter Summers. Bedcover, Elias Mercantile. Bench, Panoplie. Console, Gesso House. Rug, Tappeti.

THE PALETTE

Peter Lewis Paints Moonstone
(interior walls)

Peter Lewis Paints Baby Elephant
(bathroom)

Peter Lewis Paints Ostuni
(bedrooms)

Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.

elongated semi, Olivia rotated the kitchen, boosting its bench length from two metres to six. It abuts a dining space with a built-in table and banquette tucked under the stairs. “This is a space-saver, accommodating lots of guests and it doesn’t block light streaming down the stairwell,” she says. The indoor-outdoor connection was enhanced by swapping aluminium bifolds for smart black, steel-framed French doors. A faux beam adds a coastal slant to the ceiling, complemented by louvred oak joinery in the kitchen. Meanwhile, the laundry was shifted from the ensuite by flipping access to the hallway.

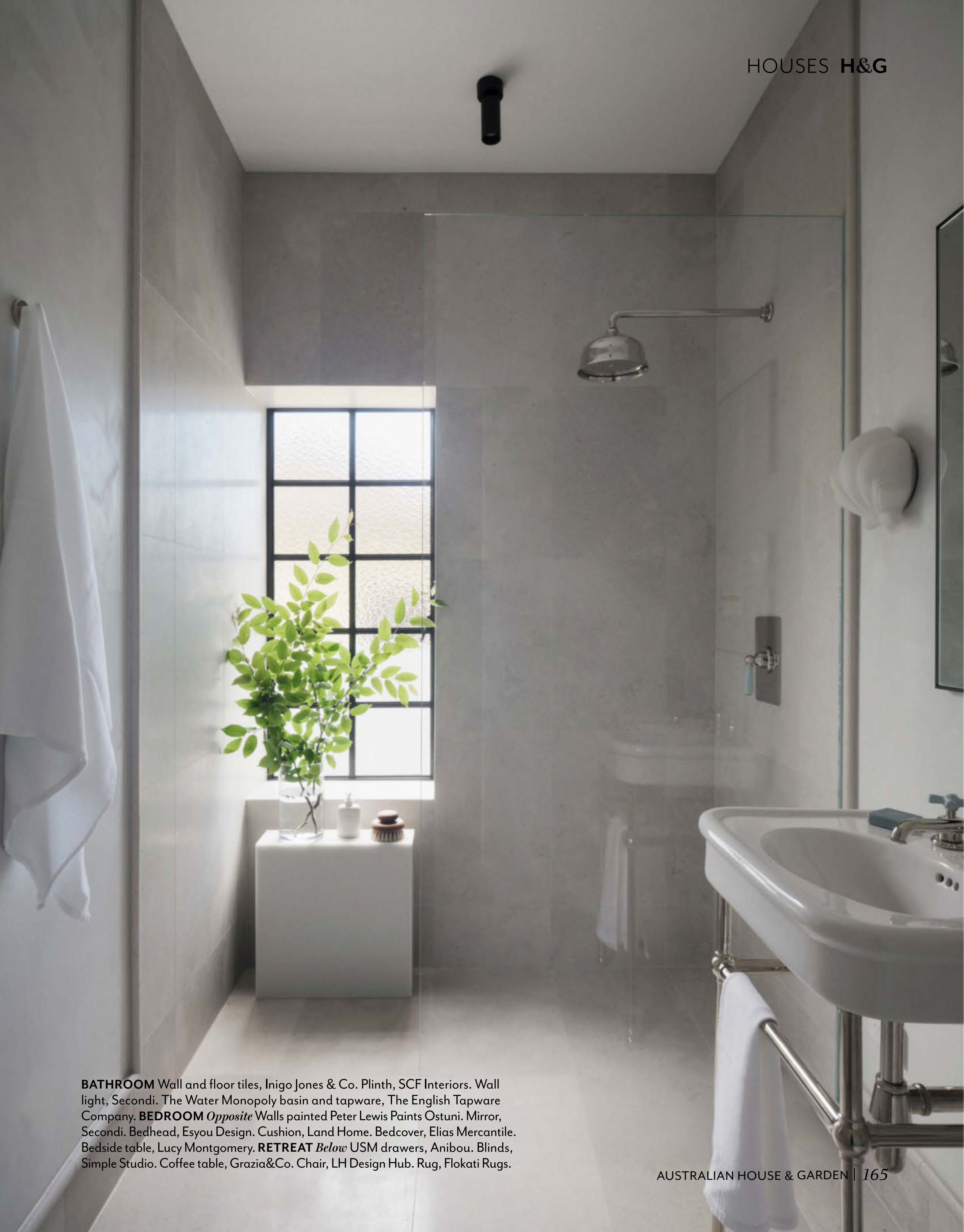
“Georgia and James love materials that look worn and patinaed, which plays into their love for a liveable relaxed style,” says Olivia. In the kitchen, textured joinery teams with microcement benchtops and dining table. Strikingly, in the ensuite, a tumbled marble mosaic floor is inset into microcement like a rug.

The neutral palette is elegant and refined, yet warm, with hints of blue. “I found myself pining for blue,” says Georgia. “It was so nice to see blue tiles in the ensuite and a powder blue banquette.”

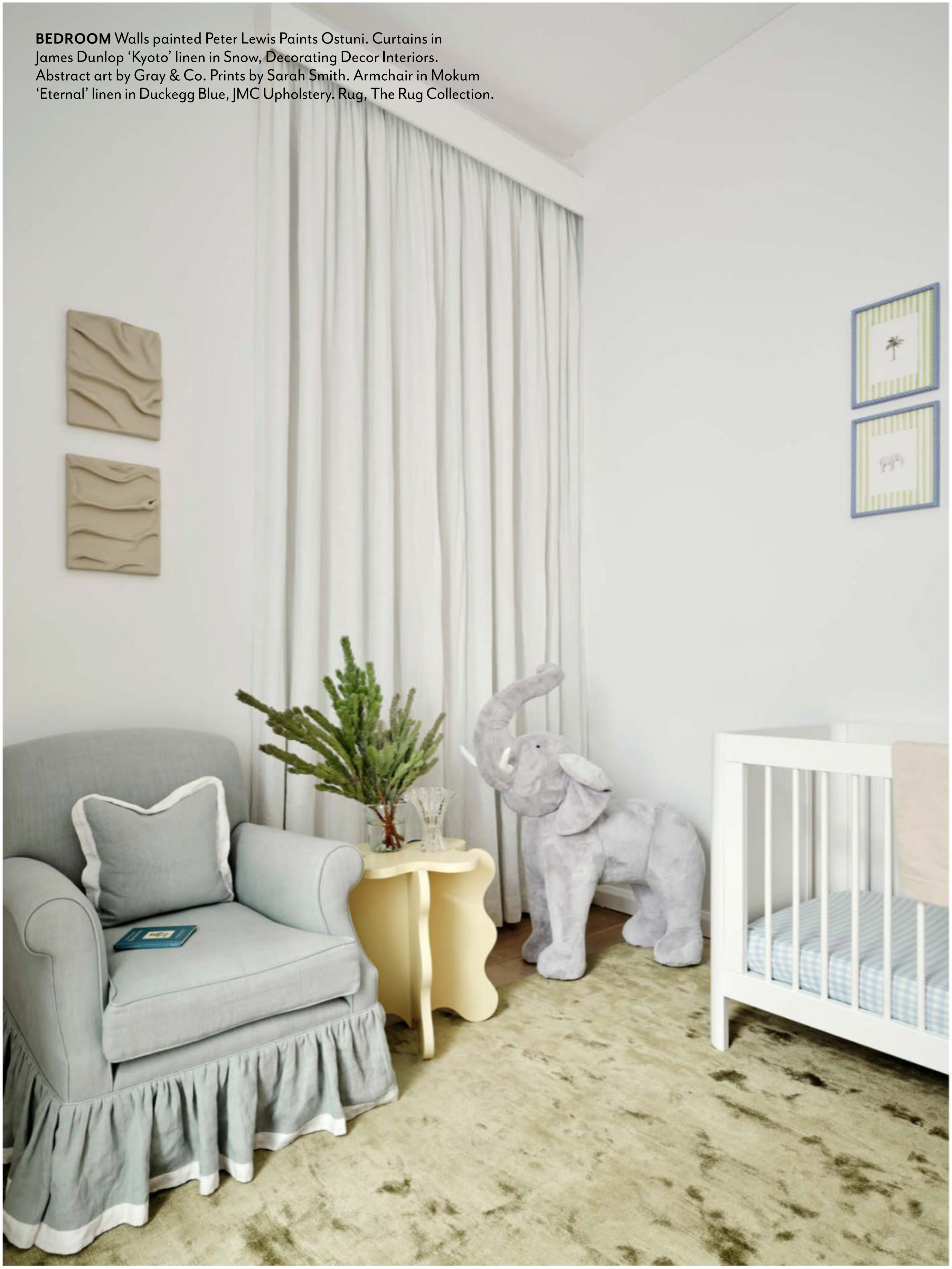
Georgia’s favourite features? “Honestly, the whole thing!” she says. “I love the kitchen and how well the storage works; the powder blue leather banquette seating is so different from standard dining chairs; the black steel-framed folding doors have transformed the space; the antique sconces in the guest bathroom add such a fun coastal element…” Her list of loves goes on.

“I am proud of the joy the home brings Georgia and James,” adds Olivia. “It’s an entertaining hub as well as their sanctuary. While it reflects their style and personality, it’s also tailored and timeless.” ▶

Olivia Giangrasso: *oliviagiangrasso.com.*
Prosper Projects: *prosperprojects.com.au.*



BATHROOM Wall and floor tiles, Inigo Jones & Co. Plinth, SCF Interiors. Wall light, Secondi. The Water Monopoly basin and tapware, The English Tapware Company. **BEDROOM** *Opposite* Walls painted Peter Lewis Paints Ostuni. Mirror, Secondi. Bedhead, Esyou Design. Cushion, Land Home. Bedcover, Elias Mercantile. Bedside table, Lucy Montgomery. **RETREAT** *Below* USM drawers, Anibou. Blinds, Simple Studio. Coffee table, Grazia&Co. Chair, LH Design Hub. Rug, Flokati Rugs.

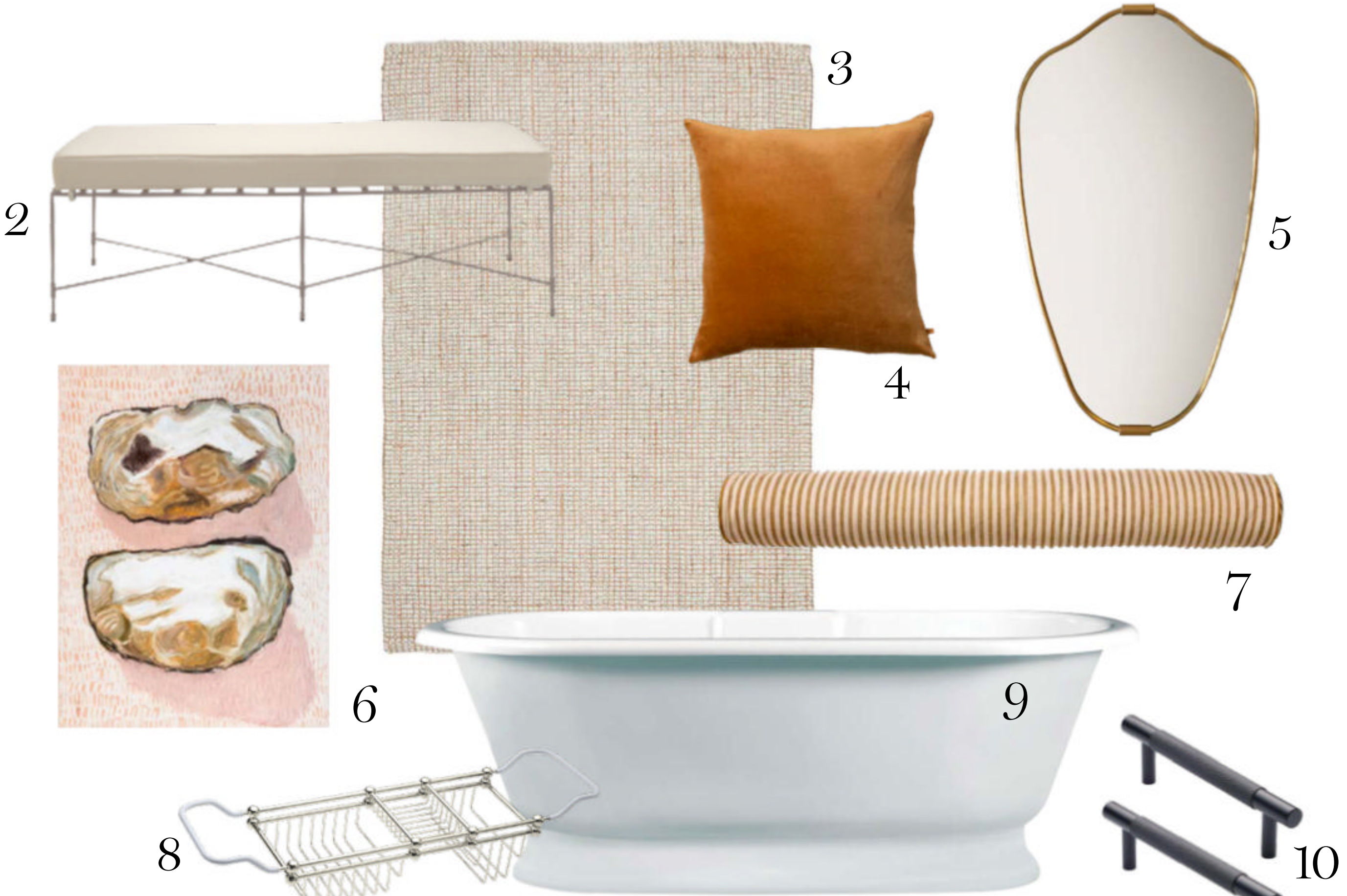


BEDROOM Walls painted Peter Lewis Paints Ostuni. Curtains in James Dunlop 'Kyoto' linen in Snow, Decorating Decor Interiors. Abstract art by Gray & Co. Prints by Sarah Smith. Armchair in Mokum 'Eternal' linen in Duckegg Blue, JMC Upholstery. Rug, The Rug Collection.

1

THE SOURCE

Nail the modern-vintage look with a selection of elegant pieces that add beauty to everyday rituals.



1 'Taccia' **table lamp** in Black, $2375, Living Edge. **2** 'Amalfi' **bench** in Moonstone, $9498, Manon and Moss. **3** 'Arabella' **rug** in Natural (320x320cm), $1099, Carpet Court. **4** Linen velvet **cushion** in Nutmeg, $119, Saardé. **5** 'Senne' **mirror**, $960, Rachel Donath. **6** *Golden Mussel Found* **artwork** by Phoebe Stone, $2090, Hake House. **7** Modern silk stripe **bolster cushion**, $109, West Elm. **8** Perrin & Rowe **bathrack** in Nickel, $925, The English Tapware Company. **9** Victoria + Albert 'York' oval **freestanding bath**, $4790, Harvey Norman. **10** Solid brass knurled **drawer pull** in Matt Black, $36 each, Manovella. **H&G**

Produced by Andrea Healy.

LITTLE RAY OF *sunshine*

A magnificent jacaranda and the promise of more space lured this Sydney family to their dream home on the semi-rural outskirts of the city.

STORY *Karen Spresser* | STYLING *Tess Thyregod* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Chris Warnes*

EXTERIOR The facade is painted Dulux Dieskau Half. "It's not too striking a white but not grey either," says Amelia. The front door is painted Porter's Paints Turkish Coffee.

THE SUMMER ROOM Doors, Steel Windows Australia. 'Radiante 692' fireplace, Cheminées Philippe. Day bed, Lydie du Bray Antiques. Antique travertine coffee table. Julie Neill 'Alberto' floor lamp and 'Farfalle' wall sconce, both The Montauk Lighting Co. The artwork was a gift. Rug, Papaya. Floors in 'Chateau' porcelain tiles in Blanc Naturale, Di Lorenzo. Foreground in 'Alabastro' Chevron European oak, Havwoods.

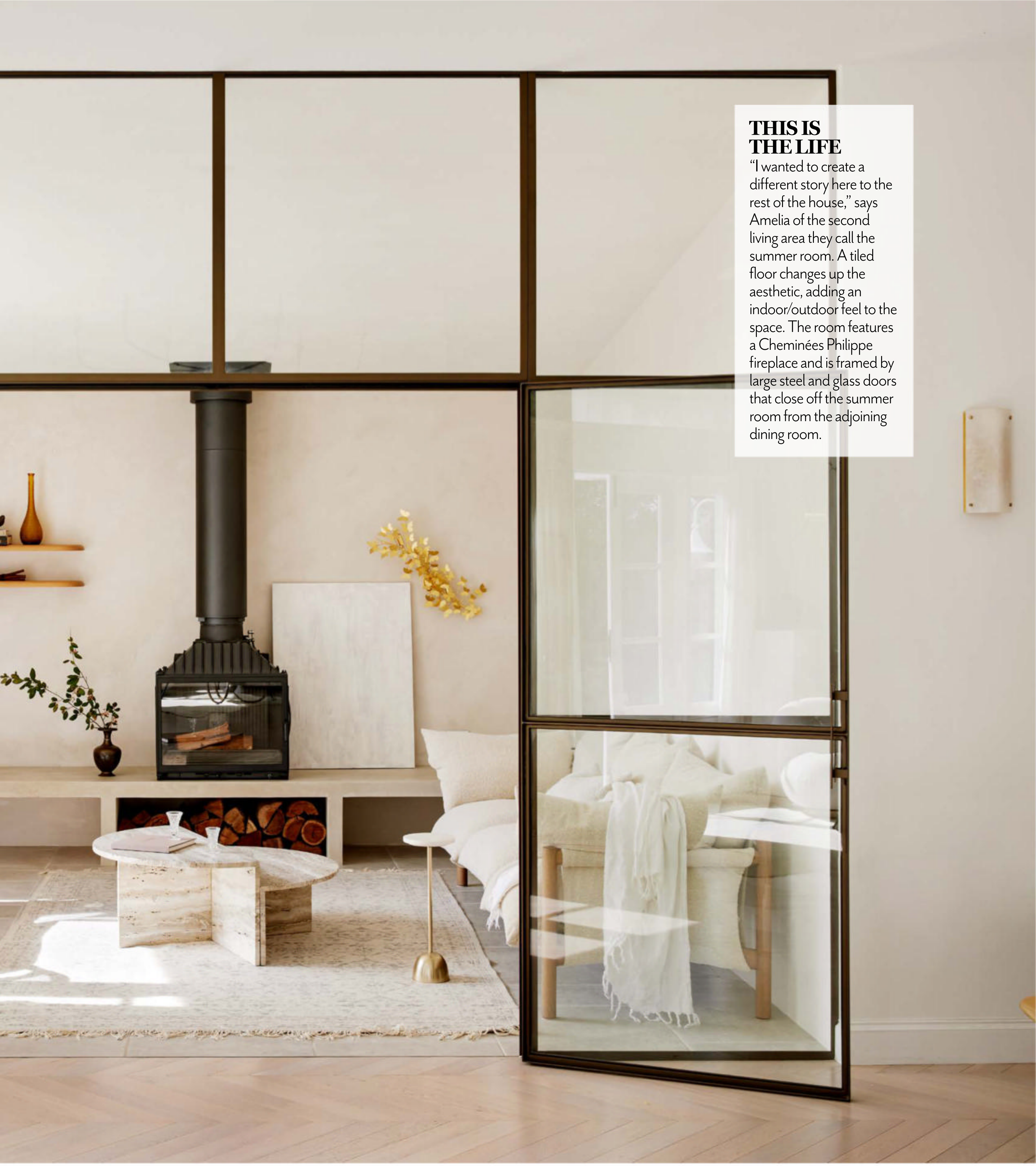
Moving out of the city was a leap of faith for photographer and designer Amelia Soegijono and her husband, Lex Florian Chan, an architectural consultant. The couple, who had previously lived in Sydney's inner suburb of Surry Hills, loved the hustle and bustle of city life, but the lure of somewhere new with more space for their family beckoned.

It took them 11 months to find what they were looking for. The house, set on the semi-rural outskirts of Sydney, dates back to the 1960s and, when the couple first laid eyes on the property in 2018, it was in "original condition and needed a lot of work".

"We went to see so many homes and then, when we got to this one, I saw these beautiful windows at the back and there was a beautiful jacaranda tree, and I'm like, 'I'm sold, let's get this house'," says Amelia. "We saw the potential, we bought it in very original condition, but we knew that we could do something with it."

The brief was to add lots of light and make spaces more functional for family life – the couple also has two young children aged seven and 10. The front of the house was retained while the back was demolished and rebuilt. A new kitchen, dining and living area now flows to the back garden with French doors opening to an expansive deck and the much-loved jacaranda tree.

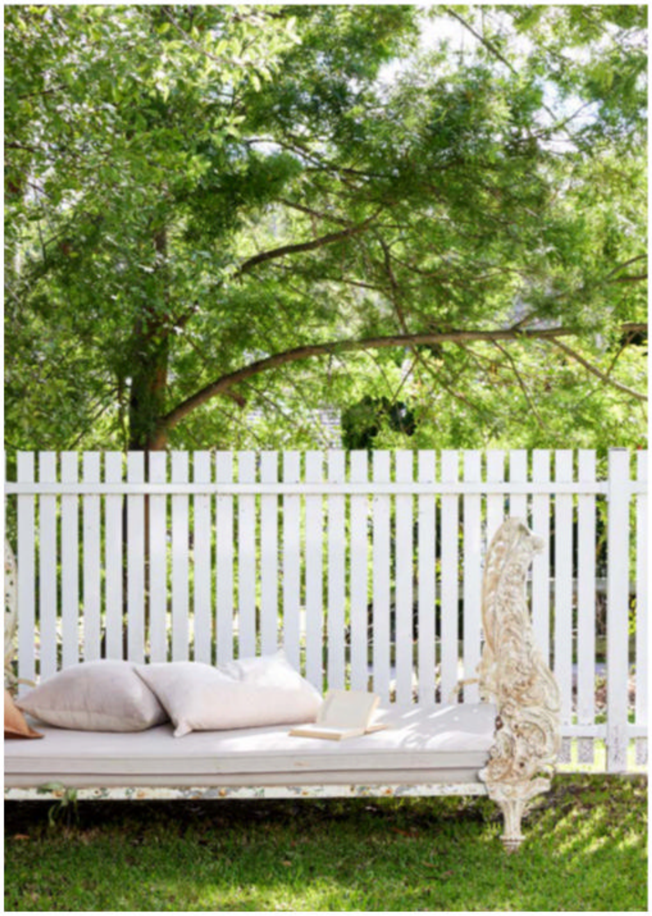
"I wanted a spacious kitchen," says Amelia of the new space with its light-toned ivory cabinetry, Caesarstone Cloudburst Concrete benchtop and warm brass accents. "And I wanted it to overlook the garden. In November the jacaranda is in full bloom and it's just a beautiful view. I'm in the kitchen all the time and I don't want to miss out on this lovely view. I also get to see the kids playing. It's just such a beautiful spot." ▶



THIS IS THE LIFE
"I wanted to create a different story here to the rest of the house," says Amelia of the second living area they call the summer room. A tiled floor changes up the aesthetic, adding an indoor/outdoor feel to the space. The room features a Cheminées Philippe fireplace and is framed by large steel and glass doors that close off the summer room from the adjoining dining room.

> "The light fittings and the hardware are simple with just a little touch of charm."
>
> AMELIA SOEGIJONO, THE OWNER AND DESIGNER

LIVING "I wanted a white that feels clean and warm without being too yellow," says Amelia, of the Porter's Paints Popcorn selection. Artwork by Rebecca Korawali. 'Languedoc French Country' chandelier in Bronze, imported. Gubi chair, Cult. Coffee table, GlobeWest. Custom plinth, made by Lex. Side table, West Elm. **FRONT EXTERIOR** Amelia at the front door. Wall light, Pearl Lighting. Bench, Alison Samantha Florals. Cushion, Adairs.



The couple has named their newly renovated home Summerhope House, in honour of their baby Summer, who they lost due to miscarriage. "I feel like houses can be like a legacy," says Amelia. "I think it's one thing to create a beautiful home but another thing to create a home that's beyond beautiful, that tells a story.

"I felt so heartbroken (after the miscarriage) because I already loved her. We talked about her a lot. When we built this house… I wanted it to carry the heart of baby Summer, bringing sunshine… I wanted everyone who came into the house to be inspired by the sunshine.

"Because of the big glass windows at the back, when we wake up in the morning, it just feels so magical. The sunshine in the house is just so glorious."

The reworked floorplan now includes three bedrooms, as well as two living areas, a home office and the new kitchen and dining. The house is sun-filled and warm, with pale chevron flooring grounding spaces. White walls (Porter's Paints Popcorn with Porter's Paints Snow White on the trims) and clean lines add to the calming, elegant feel. Amelia, who with her family spends three months of the year in France for work, wanted the interiors to have a French-inspired feel.

"It feels modern Parisian," says Amelia, who took charge of the interiors, while Lex was the owner/builder for the project. "I wanted to create an effortless French design vibe throughout.

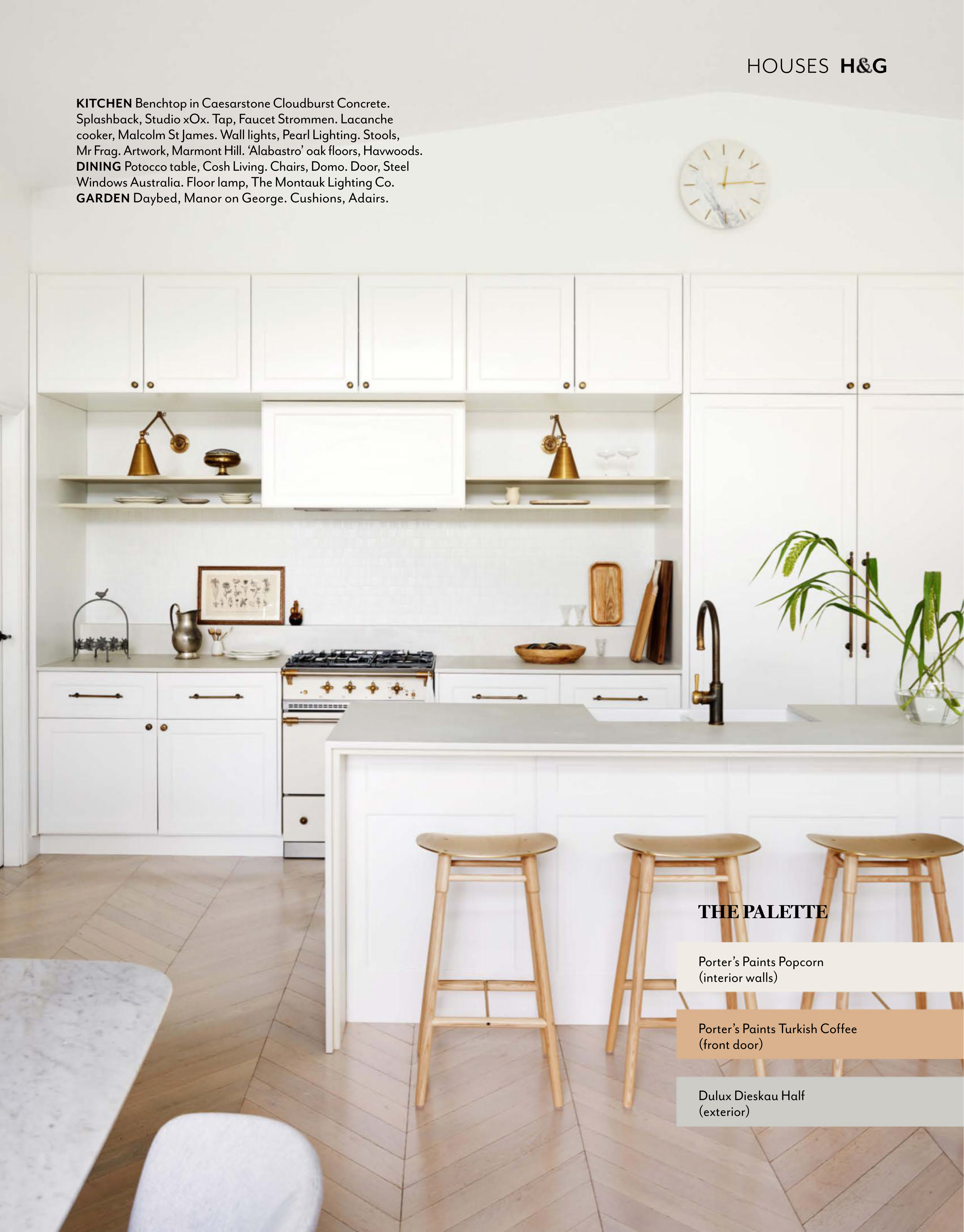
"I'm very driven by my heart and my emotions, so when I was choosing finishes, I waited for my heart to say 'mmm' and then I knew that it was the right one. The light fittings and the hardware are simple with just a little touch of charm."

At the front of the house, a pretty garden surrounded by a white picket fence also adds to the charm. Round white stepping stones lead from the gate to the front door, placed in such a way that people can skip or jump from one to the other.

"I hoped people would come in and out with a spring in their step," says Amelia. "And every time little kids come in, they always jump on the stepping stones – it makes my heart so happy." ▶

Summerlight Projects: *summerlightprojects.com.*
La Vie est Belle Interiors: *lavieestbelle.com.au.*

Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.



KITCHEN Benchtop in Caesarstone Cloudburst Concrete. Splashback, Studio xOx. Tap, Faucet Strommen. Lacanche cooker, Malcolm St James. Wall lights, Pearl Lighting. Stools, Mr Frag. Artwork, Marmont Hill. 'Alabastro' oak floors, Havwoods. **DINING** Potocco table, Cosh Living. Chairs, Domo. Door, Steel Windows Australia. Floor lamp, The Montauk Lighting Co. **GARDEN** Daybed, Manor on George. Cushions, Adairs.

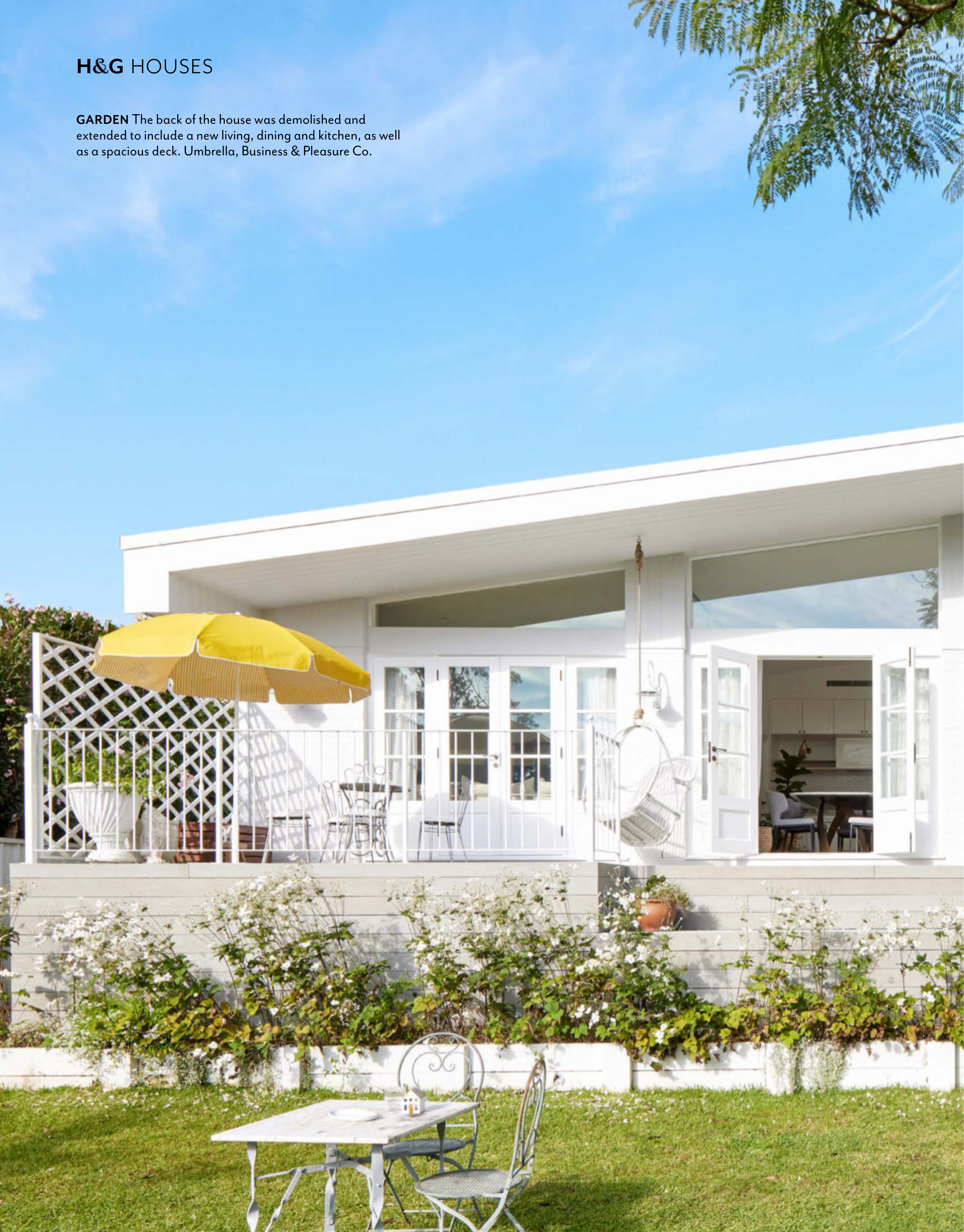
THE PALETTE

Porter's Paints Popcorn
(interior walls)

Porter's Paints Turkish Coffee
(front door)

Dulux Dieskau Half
(exterior)

GARDEN The back of the house was demolished and extended to include a new living, dining and kitchen, as well as a spacious deck. Umbrella, Business & Pleasure Co.



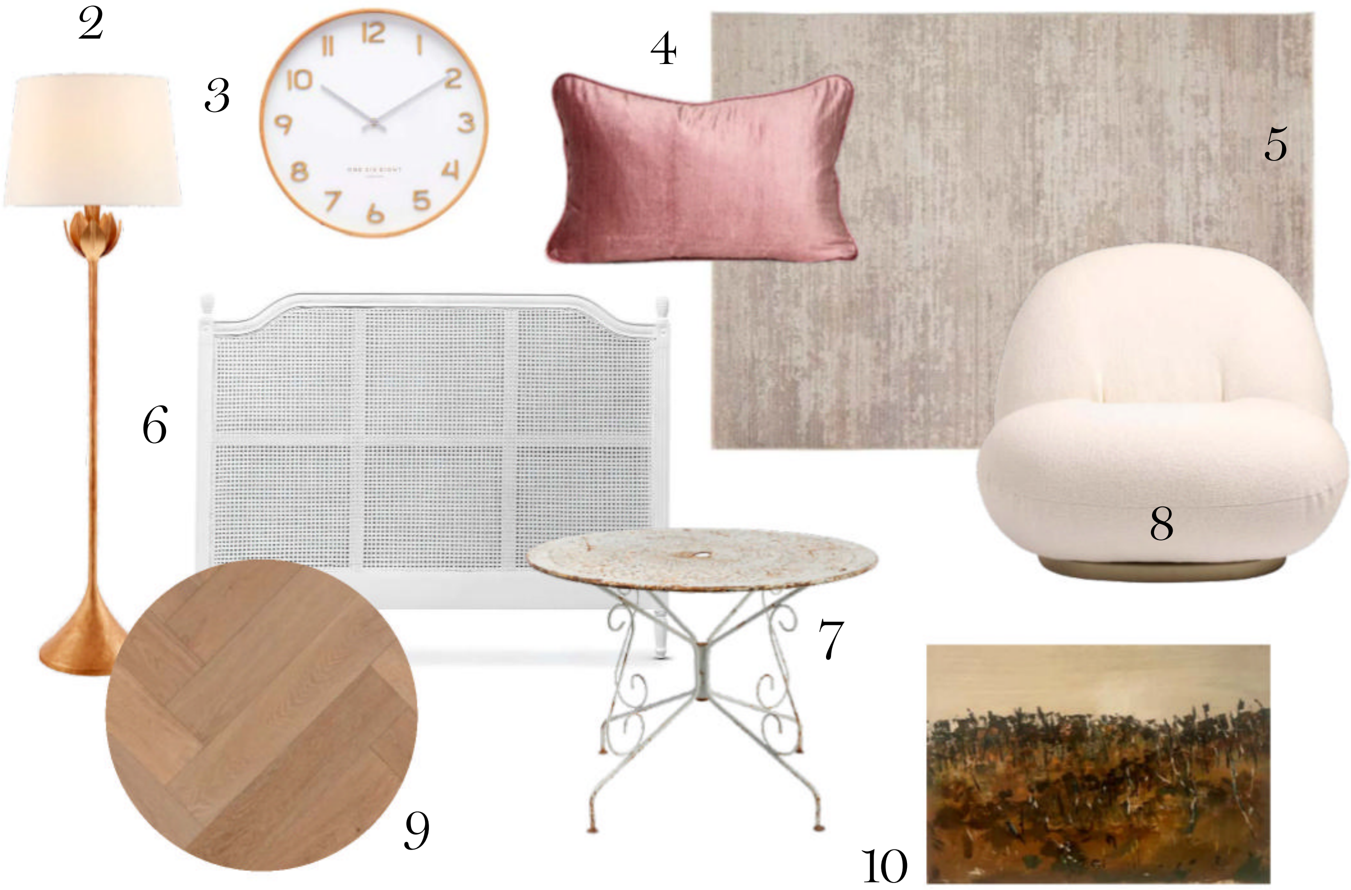
> “When we wake up in the morning, it feels so magical. The sunshine in the house is just so glorious.”
>
> AMELIA SOEGIJONO

BEDROOM *This page and opposite* Bedhead and ‘Partrack’ bedside tables, all LivingStyles. Sofa, West Elm. Bed linen, stylist’s own. Wall light, The Montauk Lighting Co. Artwork by Rebecca Korawali. **BATHROOM** Custom vanity and Brodware tapware, both Candana. Bath, Antique Baths Sydney. Julie Neill ‘Alberto’ medium sconce, The Montauk Lighting Co. The poster was purchased in a tiny shop in Èze, France, a few years ago. **HOME OFFICE** Curtains, Goldline Blinds. Light fitting, bought in France. Photographic artwork on shelf by Amelia Soegijono. Chair, Coco Unika. Takeshi Sawada for Elements Optimal ‘Sheep’ chair, Top3 by Design. Cushion, Adairs.

LIVING Gubi 'Pacha' lounge chair, Cult. 'Amelie' coffee table, GlobeWest. Bronze vase, candle, crystal bud vases, all antique finds. White vase, Katarina Wells Ceramics. Brown round vase and side table, both West Elm. Plinth, custom made by homeowner Lex.

THE SOURCE

Give interiors a certain je ne sais quoi by curating French-style items in a warm ivory and blush palette.



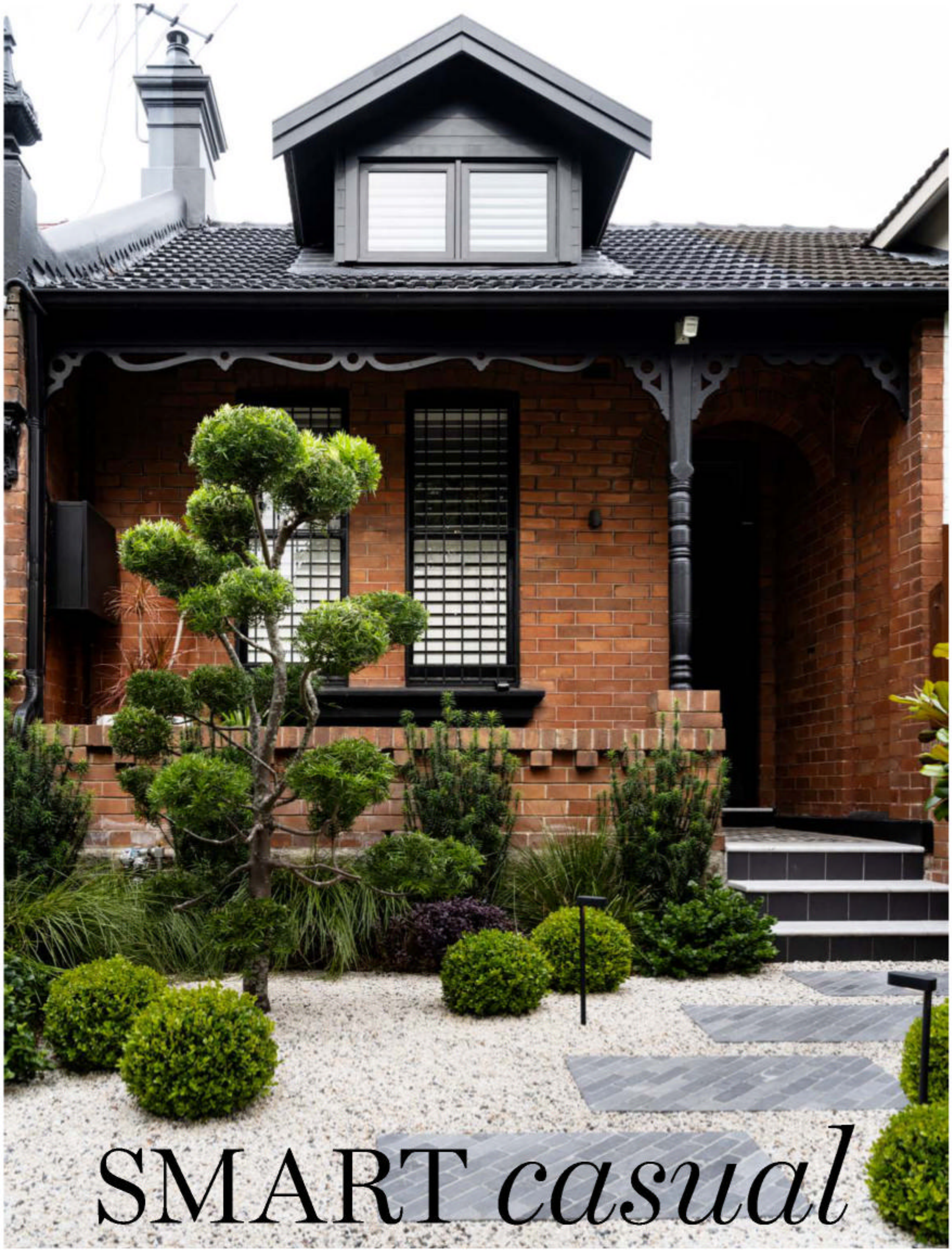
1 Georges 'French Petal' **pendant light** in Nude Ombré, $1195, Greenhouse Interiors. **2** Julie Neill 'Alberto' **floor lamp** in Antique Gold Leaf, $2590, The Montauk Lighting Co. **3** 'Ruffano' **clock**, $149, Freedom. **4** 'Coco' piped velvet lumbar **cushion** in Vintage Rose, $119, Darcy & Duke. **5** Darren Palmer 'Morgana' **rug** (230x160cm), $499, Carpet Court. **6** 'Marsella' **headboard**, $1149, Freedom. **7** Vintage French Wrought iron **garden table** from Provence, $850, Dusty Luxe. **8** Gubi 'Pacha' **lounge chair**, $4499, Cult. **9** 'Grand Oak' Herringbone engineered **oak flooring** in Mink Grey, POA, Carpet Court. **10** *Saplings* c.1963 **artwork** by Fred Williams (38 x 54cm), $45,000, Olsen Gallery. **H&G**

Produced by Andrea Healy and Marissa Foye.

Gardens

SMALL SPACES WITH BIG PERSONALITIES

Calligraphy by Lesley Workman.



SMART *casual*

A traditional garden at the front and contemporary landscaping at the rear bring double the joy to the family who live here.

STORY *Eliza O'Hare* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Brigid Arnott*

A feature cloud tree (*Podocarpus falcatus*) stands over Japanese plum yew (*Cephalotaxus harringtonia* 'Prostrata'), mat rush (*Lomondra longiflora* 'Tanika'), box (*Buxus*) and Little Ruby (*Alternanthera dentata*). **OPPOSITE** Teddy bear magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora* 'Teddy Bear'), purple hop bush (*Dodonaea viscosa purpurea*), box (*Buxus*), silver spoons (*Kalanchoe bracteata*). Pacific bluestone paving, Eco Outdoors adds linear order to the design.

“THE JASMINE FEELS LIKE A WALL OF GREEN, A BEAUTIFUL BACKDROP TO THE SPACE.”

Adam Robinson, landscape designer

“This might be a small garden in a small house,” explains landscape designer Adam Robinson, “but we really packed a lot in there for this family.” The brief was to make the most of the front and rear spaces of a Federation semi in Sydney’s Queens Park, with different vibes for each. The front called for a more traditional garden to work with the original facade, and out the back a more contemporary landscaping approach was required to reflect a recent renovation. “I call that a modern classic,” says Adam. We’re in his office discussing the powers of landscaping to leverage more space in front of his wall of materials samples – bricks in ochre and rust, elegant tiles in a suite of dusty neutrals, hardwood timbers and books of outdoor fabric selections. It’s a reminder of the many materials it takes to create an elevated garden space where all the elements work together, and also why working with a landscape designer is a game changer.

For this project, Adam started with a simple but powerful front yard swap, relocating the front entry gate from the right side of the garden to the left, effectively creating a diagonal journey across the garden up to the front door. “It’s something we’ve been doing lately. When you’re house proud it can be really nice to experience your home on the walk to your front door,” he says. Adam emphasised the homecoming emotion by adding thoughtful lighting embedded into the garden and on exterior walls to illuminate the path after dark.

The materials selection came second, with tessellated tiles, Carrara marble steps and elongated bluestone batten paving steppers laid on a 45-degree angle with salt and pepper gravel in between. “Gravel is a really useful lawn alternative for small spaces or shady spots because you still want to have a garden vibe out the front, but you know… lawn can be a little bit boring,” he says. However, there’s nothing boring about the distressed, rusted Corten steel panels, added for privacy, which add contrast and show off the luscious plantings, especially the sculptural showstopper, a Podocarpus cloud tree.

The backyard is a courtyard between the main house and a rear lane access garage with studio on top. “There was not a lot happening out there, so we ran some beautiful brick down one wall and on the other side we’ve added a bamboo screen with bougainvillea grown above on stainless steel cables, which is quite modern,” says Adam.

At first the garage and its first-floor studio threw a visual problem into the mix, but was solved by some clever camouflage from star jasmine. “The jasmine took over the trellis and was a great way to completely disguise the garage and studio. And when you look out from the house, it just feels like a wall of green, a beautiful backdrop to the space.

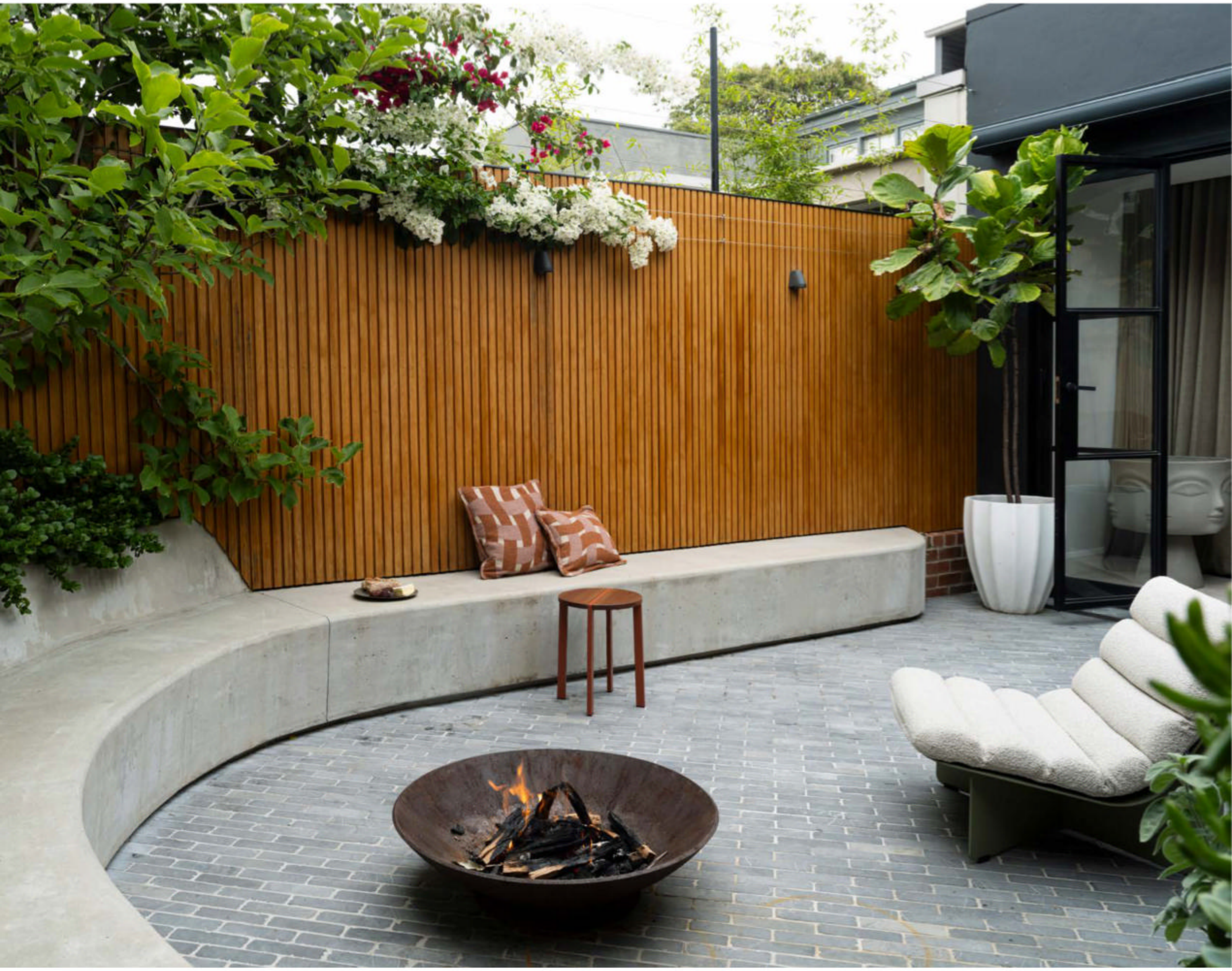
“The only tricky thing about this job was just the size and having a good amount of usability in the space,” he says. So while the formed polished concrete bench seat may be smart and space-saving, more importantly it is structural as well. It has become the anchor of the whole rear courtyard. “You can either push a dining table up against it and pull in some chairs for an alfresco dinner or it’s just a pure hangout lounge space, but having the bench out there works because it also acts as a clever retaining wall to the raised garden bed behind it.”

The big outdoor kitchen trend of the past few years is still sticking around, but that was not ever going to work for this petite project – although there is a cleverly built-in charcoal barbecue that uses minimal space, as well as a fire pit. “We are seeing lots of fire pits and outdoor fireplaces; it helps make a backyard accessible all year,” says Adam. Which makes sense, especially for small scale projects where backyards need to be used as an extension of the entertaining spaces inside. It also helps that he made considered plant selections that ensure the garden continuously evolves throughout the year without any dead zones, so that this backyard is a joy all year round. **H&G**

***Adam Robinson Design:** adamrobinsondesign.com.*

Opposite A wall of star jasmine (*Trachelospermum jasminoide*) works to camouflage the studio and garage that leads to the back lane, and creates a luscious green wall to admire from the house. An olive tree (*Olea europaea*), tulip tree (*Magnolia x soulangeana*) and silver spoons (*Kalanchoe bracteata*) add dimension and depth. Cushions and ‘Voom’ lounger, both Tait. Firepit, Cranbrook Workshop. Pacific bluestone pavers, Eco Outdoor.

> “FIRE PITS AND OUTDOOR FIREPLACES HELP MAKE A BACKYARD ACCESSIBLE ALL YEAR.”
>
> *Adam Robinson*



In the backyard, a polished concrete bench works as both a retaining wall and garden seating. The ‘Symphony’ bamboo cladding from House of Bamboo offers a warm contrast to the bluestone paving from Eco Outdoor. A potted fiddle-leaf fig (*Ficus lyrata*) sits alongside a stool, cushions and lounger, all Tait. Firepit, Cranbrook Workshop. ***Opposite, top left*** In the front yard: a cloud tree (*Podocarpus falcatus*), Japanese plum yew (*Cephalotaxus harringtonia* ‘Prostrata’), box (*Buxus*) and Little Ruby (*Alternanthera dentata*). ***Top right*** Silver spurflower (*Plectranthus argentatus*). ***Bottom right*** Bougainvillea (*Nyctaginaceae*) weaves across bamboo cladding from House of Bamboo. ***Bottom left*** Carissa desert star (*Macrocarpa*). Project built by Red Cedar Constructions. Landscape installation by Terraneo Landscape Design. Plants sourced from Exotic Nurseries.

PLANT LIST

TREES

Cloud tree
(*Podocarpus falcatus*)

Tulip tree (*Magnolia*
x *soulangeana*)

SHRUBS

Box (*Buxus*)

Carissa desert star
(*Macrocarpa*)

Little Ruby
(*Alternanthera dentata*)

Japanese yew plum
(*Cephalotaxus*
harringtonia 'Prostrata')

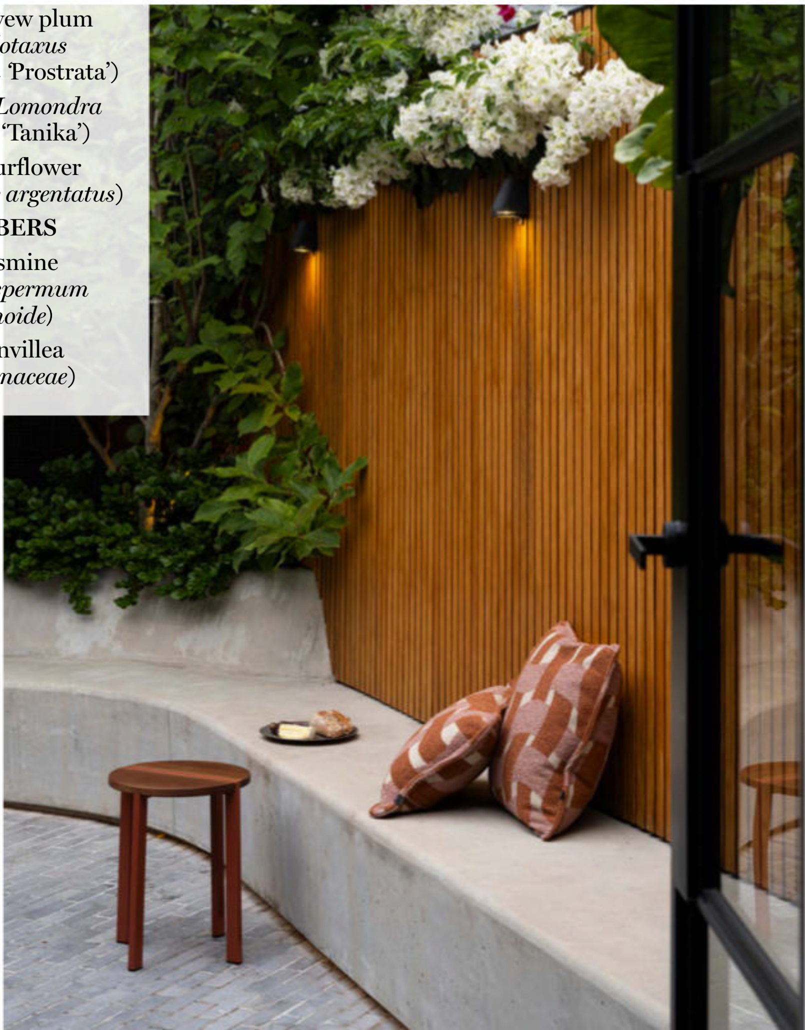
Mat rush (*Lomondra*
longiflora 'Tanika')

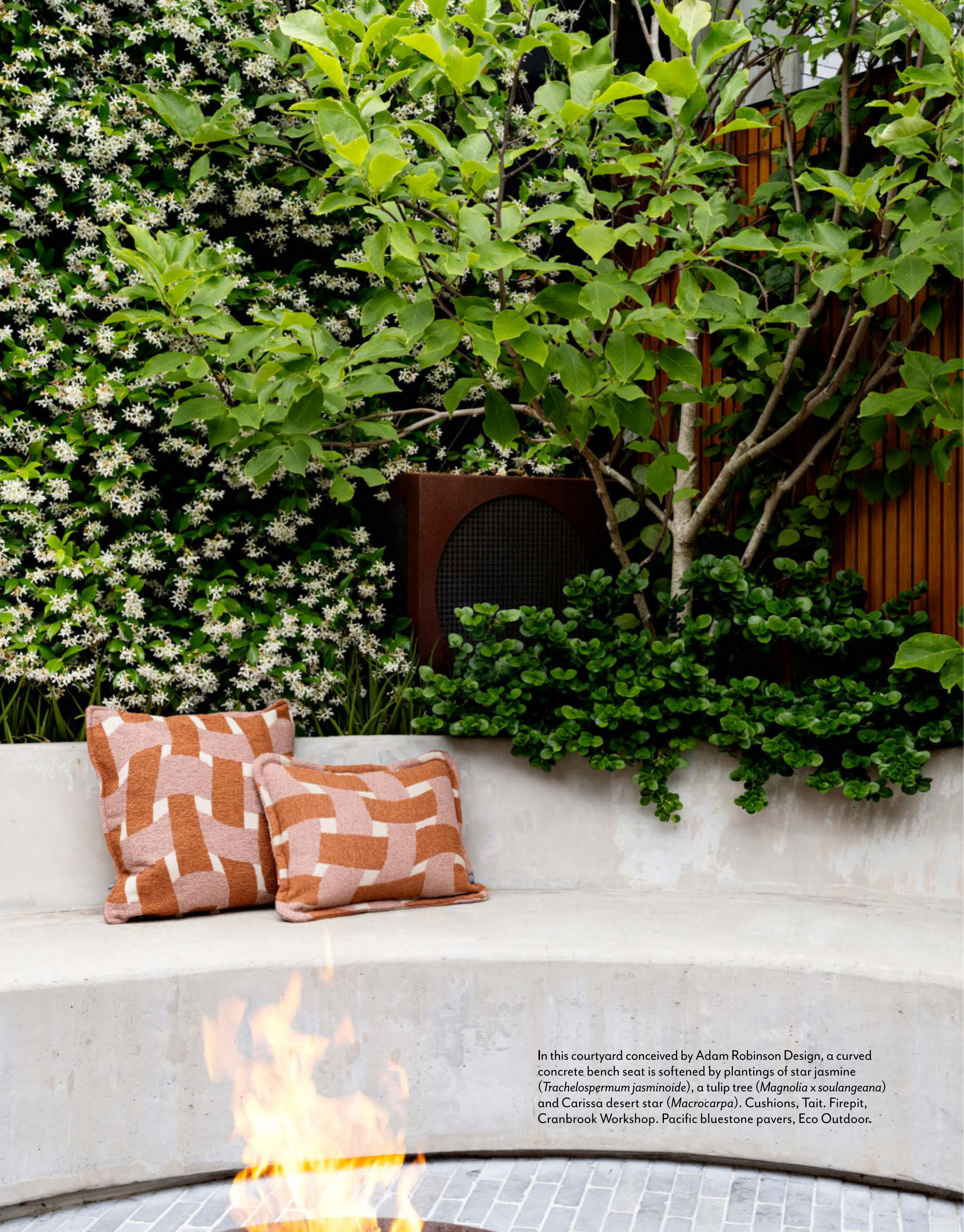
Silver spurflower
(*Plectranthus argentatus*)

CLIMBERS

Star jasmine
(*Trachelospermum*
jasminoide)

Bougainvillea
(*Nyctaginaceae*)





In this courtyard conceived by Adam Robinson Design, a curved concrete bench seat is softened by plantings of star jasmine (*Trachelospermum jasminoide*), a tulip tree (*Magnolia x soulangeana*) and Carissa desert star (*Macrocarpa*). Cushions, Tait. Firepit, Cranbrook Workshop. Pacific bluestone pavers, Eco Outdoor.

FIRESIDE FINDS

Create a cosy outdoor scene for entertaining and relaxing, perfect for warming up with a cup of tea by the fire pit.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

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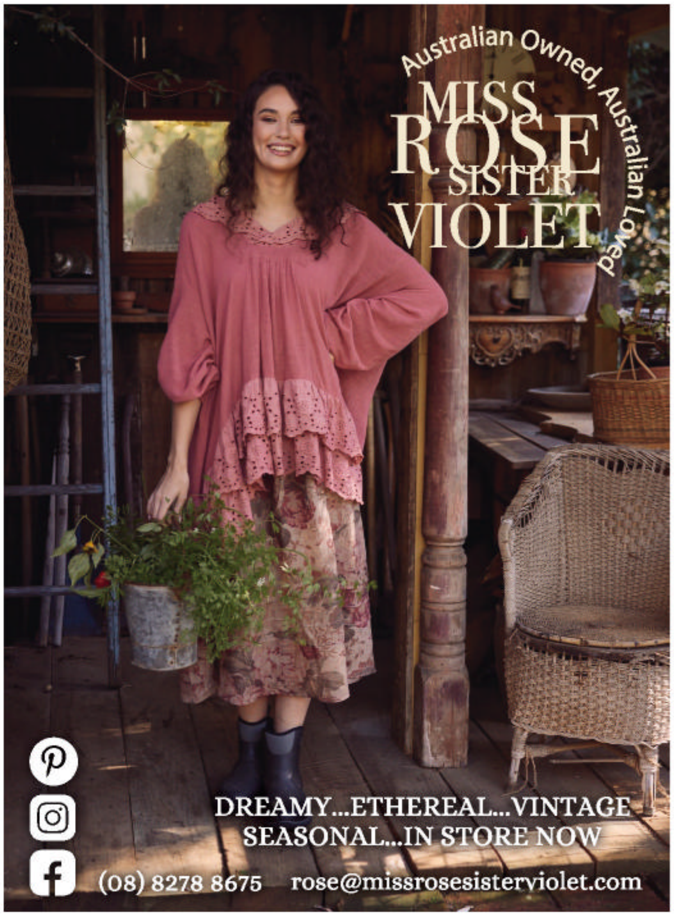
9

10

1 'Tulum' indoor x out **bean bag chair** in Baked Clay, $995, Lujo. **2** Garden Trading 1.1L **watering can** in Chalk, $54.95, Kitchen Warehouse. **3** Coffee **cup and saucer** in Eucalyptus, $379, Zuefolk. **4** National Trust x Burgon & Ball **garden fork**, $110, Heynes. **5** 'Bobbi' **ankle boot** in Khaki Green, $159.95, Merry People. **6** 'Green Garden Couture Kit' **garden hose** set in Eucalyptus Leaf (20m), $399, Garden Glory **7** Grillz rustic **fire pit**, $257.99, Myer. **8** 'Palm Springs' extra-large **planter** in Nickel Lacquer, $400, Lightly. **9** 'Tuci' **outdoor sofa**, $5195, Coco Republic. **10** 'Bondi' piped **outdoor cushion** in Red Centre, $49.95, Salt Sun Sand. **H&G**

Produced by Bethan Lacoba and Marissa Foye. Photograph (opposite) by Brigid Arnott.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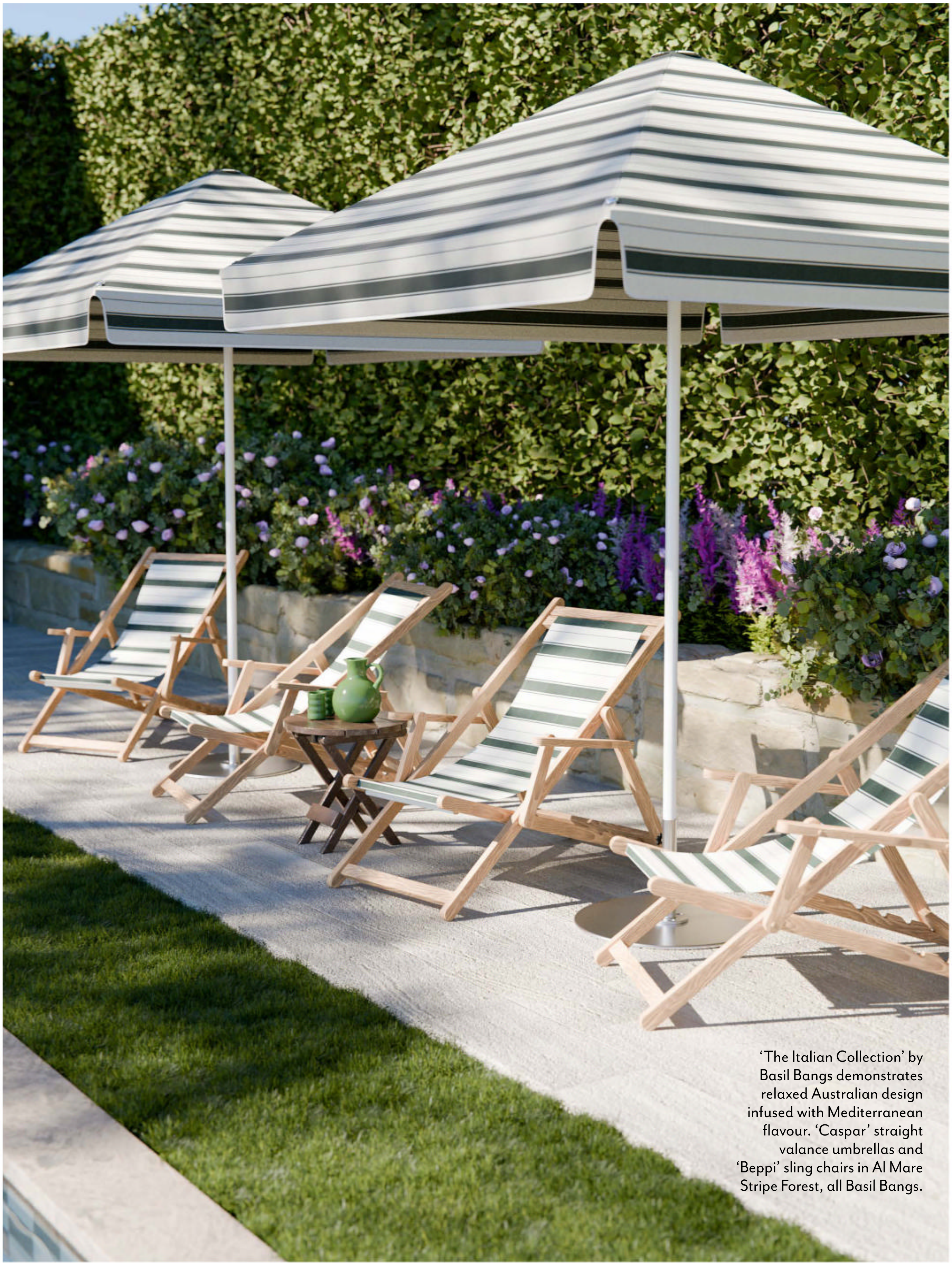
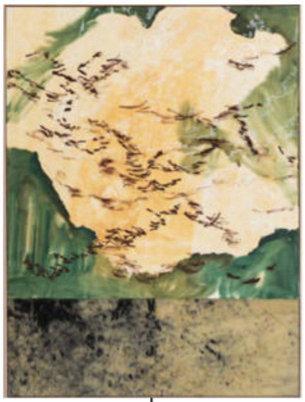
Mike Durante & Krista Huebner

The husband-and-wife duo behind Basil Bangs have transformed Aussie beach and gardenscapes with their classic outdoor wares.

PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHY *Jacqui Turk* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Michael Askew*



'The Italian Collection' by Basil Bangs demonstrates relaxed Australian design infused with Mediterranean flavour. 'Caspar' straight valance umbrellas and 'Beppi' sling chairs in Al Mare Stripe Forest, all Basil Bangs.



AIR
MOON SAFARI

MIKE AND KRISTA'S FAVOURITE THINGS
From top Water is forever in motion 2/2 **artwork** by Ash Holmes, $7900, Hake House. Indoor/outdoor **bean bag** in Al Mare Stripe Terra, $499, Basil Bangs. *Moon Safari* studio **album** by Air. 'Cycle' **chair**, $596, Tait.

> *"Life and work are always a bit of a seesaw... It's about being clear on your priority for that moment, then going for it."*

K: Mike and I grew up in loving households with very creative and hard-working parents. Both our dads are immigrants who didn't believe in paying people to do what they could do themselves, but also valued the role that art and artists play in our lives. They both ran their own small businesses and encouraged entrepreneurship and creativity. It was very much a home environment of 'do it yourself', so the writing was on the wall really!

K: At the moment, we're both training for a half marathon, so inevitably we're up early. On an average work morning, there's always a coffee, the mad hustle to get the kids to school and then it's straight into the studio with Rudy our dog to get going with the day, together with the Basil Bangs team. For Mike, he might settle into some design work, inspect products, chat with the team or meet with suppliers and design partners. For Krista, it might be meeting with interior designers, organising shoots or doing site inspections... and all the other things in between! The day is never long enough and there's always family life to juggle too.

M: I love some music in the workshop or if the WSL surfing is on, there's a good chance that's beamed in the workshop. In the studio, we are a bit more chill. Lately there's been a bit of classic Aussie rock, Tom Petty and Dylan.

M: The biggest challenge in my career was deciding to leave a full-time job I loved to work on my own thing full-time.

K: Learning how to be a mother and nurture a family while nurturing a business was a huge challenge. It's still a work in progress but a challenge I'm more comfortable with now.

K: Basil Bangs recently celebrated its 15th birthday, and we just celebrated our 15th wedding anniversary. Both are achievements! Our business and team are growing every year. And personally, to still like each other and enjoy working together is pretty cool, too.

K: For a satisfying work-life balance, first, exercising regularly is a 'non-negotiable'. Second, letting go of the idea of achieving 'balance'. It's a false construct and is aligned with being 'perfect' or 'happy'. These are all transitory moments to enjoy when they happen, but life and work are always a bit of a seesaw with so many areas pushing and pulling at any one time. Any decision has an opportunity cost, so it's about being clear on your priority for that moment, then going for it. That said, we're guilty of not taking our own advice, so things can get a bit wild at times!

Our family is part of the business. Our kids have grown up with 'Basil' as their third sibling. There's plenty of dinner chat about the business mixed with what's happening with school and friends. It's a happy mash up. We also want our team to have time with their families, so we have healthy expectations there.

M: The making process nourishes my creativity. Seeing things being created by masters. Factory tours. Anything that lifts the lid on production methods (I really geek out on YouTube videos!) Being curious. Being critical. Going to suppliers and seeing what's possible. Collaborations and solving problems together.

K: Taking time off to recharge in nature nourishes my creativity. Sometimes I can only manage a brief, salty swim, other times it's a weekend bush walk. If I'm lucky, it's a week away somewhere with a patchy connection. Our family all treasures our annual week at Seal Rocks (NSW) looking for pippis, playing cards and pretending to be mermaids.

Recently we've enjoyed connecting with local designer Adam Goodrum and also brand Tait. We're also inspired by designer Paola Lenti, artist Emil Nolde, Mark Rothko, Brâncusi sculptures, and getting lost in antique stores.

***K: I absolutely gobbled up Helen Garner's new book,* The Season.** Loved all her observations of boys, footy and life as an Aussie nana. What a treasure she is. We've recently been introduced to the poet David Whyte.

M: I love an audiobook and I loved* Shoe Dog, *the story of Nike. I was late to the party on that one, but it's great. Also, Dave Grohl's memoir.

K: I truly believe that real luxury is having the time and freedom to forge our own path. What a gift. Ken Done said that luxury is "walking into an art supply store and being able to buy whatever I want", which also really resonated.

M: Luxury is designing the best possible product without having to worry about the price. It's superseding expectations.

We recently enjoyed meeting suppliers in Italy and visiting the Salone del Mobile. What a feast for the senses! There is no other event in the world where you can see so many ideas in the flesh in such beautiful spaces. It was incredibly enriching.

Is there something new we'd like to tackle?

M: As a designer, I would love the challenge of designing a superyacht and a tiny house.

K: I'm excited to be working towards B Corp Certification and continuing to grow our outdoor fabric collection. **H&G**

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